

Jordan Times

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Qadhafi: U.S. did not cross 'line of death'

BAHRAIN (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said on Friday that U.S. warships did not cross a "line of death" during this week's sea and air confrontation in the Gulf of Sirte, the Libyan news agency (JANA) reported. JANA said Col. Qadhafi "confirmed the U.S. ships did not pass beyond the line 32 degrees which he declared as a line of death." JANA also quoted Col. Qadhafi as saying the United States was lying in not disclosing "the shooting down of three U.S. F-14 aircraft and the death of their six pilots who are being eaten by fish in the Gulf of Sirte." Col. Qadhafi was speaking at celebrations marking the 16th anniversary of the withdrawal of British troops from Libya. Col. Qadhafi said Libya was still engaged in "a battle with America to defend its life and borders."

Soviets link U.S. test with summit

MOSCOW (AP) — A Soviet official said on Friday the recent U.S. nuclear weapons test will affect Soviet willingness to set a date for the next summit. Valery Sukhin, deputy chief of the Foreign Ministry's Press Department, also said a decision has not yet been made on whether the Soviet Union will extend its unilateral nuclear test moratorium. Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev may announce a decision during a nationally televised speech scheduled for Saturday night. The highly unusual advance announcement of the speech appeared Friday evening in the television schedules of the government newspaper Izvestia. The announcement gave no details of what Mr. Gorbachev would say. It seemed likely, however, that Mr. Gorbachev would make an announcement on the Soviet test moratorium and perhaps other disarmament issues.

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Jordan to host OIC meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will host a conference of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) information ministers April 16-18. OIC Secretary General Sherifuddin Pizadeh told newsmen in Islamabad. The conference will discuss special measures to confront the challenges of anti-Islam propaganda as well as strengthening of cooperation among OIC countries. The Qatari News Agency (QNA) quoted Mr. Pizadeh as saying:

Thatcher: U.S. may revive Camp David

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said on Thursday the collapse of recent peace efforts in the Middle East might lead the United States to attempt to revive the Camp David process. Answering a question in parliament, Mrs. Thatcher said:

"Since the initiative of Jordan broke down, there has not been another one other than the Camp David process which the United States might think fit to revive."

Talhoumi to head team to IPU talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Parliament will attend the 75th conference of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) which is scheduled to be held in Mexico the beginning of next month. The Jordanian delegation to the conference will be headed by Upper House of Parliament (Senate) member Bahjat Talhoumi and include Senate members Walid Salah and Khalil Salem. Lower House members Musa Abu Ragheb, Salman Qudat, Rizk Bataineh, Edward Khamis, and House Secretary General Hani Khair and Director of Parliamentary Affairs Zaid Zreikat. Mr. Talhoumi said the conference will discuss issues pertinent to the world's arms race, disarmament, nuclear war, chemical weapons, terrorism and ways to defuse world tension.

Israelis detain 2 Al Najah students

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two Palestinian students, one the leader of a university student union, have been detained by Israeli forces, Israel Radio reported Friday. The two allegedly belong to Fatah, the radio said. Ibrahim Hassan Atur is head of the student union at Al Najah University in Nablus, the radio said. The other detainee, whose name was not released, also studied at Al Najah, the largest campus in the occupied West Bank, the radio said.

Greece intercepts Israeli arms cargo

ATHENS (AP) — Greek authorities have arrested a ship carrying a helicopter, machine-guns and explosives and apparently on its way from Israel to Latin America, the shipping ministry said Thursday. The ministry said the vessel, the 3,000-ton West Lion, was under arrest in the Cretan port and police were questioning the Greek captain and his crew of seven Turks, an Austrian and three Filipinos. The ship was apprehended off Karpathos Island and escorted here, the ministry said in a statement.

Bhutto to return home next month

LONDON (AP) — Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto will return to politics in Pakistan on April 10 in a test of the restoration by President Zia Ul Haq that democracy has been restored, her spokesman announced Friday. Miss Bhutto, who has been in exile in Britain for over two years except for a brief period in Pakistan last year, will go immediately to a public rally from her arrival in Lahore, said Bashir Riaz, her spokesman.

Electoral law passes Lower House after brief debate

Number of deputies raised to 142 from 60 • Voting age lowered to 19 from 20

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament has approved a new electoral law which increases the number of legislators from 60 to 142, divided evenly between the West and East Banks. Contrary to earlier expectations, the law was passed following a brief, but nevertheless fervent, debate, with only two deputies, Leith Shbeilat (Amman) and Riyadh Al Nawaish (Karak), voting against it.

The new law, which had been the subject of lengthy discussions by the House Legal Committee since the beginning of the year, allocates one seat each to the 11 Palestinian refugee camps in the East Bank. Those 11 seats are considered part of the 71 seats allocated for the West Bank.

The law also lowers the voting age to 19 from 20 and reserves 17 seats for Christians and three to Circassian and Chichen communities in the country. But it kept the same nomination age as in the old law for parliamentary candidates.

Both Mr. Shbeilat and Dr. Nawaish, who were the most outspoken during the debate, strongly protested against the basis on which constituencies are divided. They contended that the distribution of constituencies "was based on sectarian, racial, tribal and regional considerations instead of pure demographic factors."

In a written list of reservations against the law Mr. Shbeilat called for the exclusion of the West Bank from representation in Parliament "since the West Bank is still under Israeli occupation."

Jordanian officials have always defended the inclusion of West Bank deputies in Parliament on the basis that their exclusion would create a political vacuum in the occupied territory and this vacuum could be used by the Israeli authorities to impose a de facto annexation.

Since elections could not be conducted in the West Bank because of the Israeli occupation, the 60 deputies from West Bank will be selected by the House while deputies representing East Bank and Palestinian refugee camps will be directly elected.

The deputy of Salt, Zuhair Zuhairan Al Hussein, proposed that Palestinians in the East Bank, except for the refugee camps, should not vote for East Bank deputies. Mr. Hussein's proposal drew strong criticism from West Bank deputies, who asked for its removal from the minutes of the session. The House rejected Mr. Hussein's proposal and voted for its removal from the minutes of the meeting.

The House, however, approved a recommendation by the Legal Committee that West Bankers should refrain from nominating themselves for East Bank seats and vice-versa. The recommendation was not mentioned as part of the law and therefore is not legally binding.

The main point of controversy raised by Mr. Shbeilat and Dr. Nawaish was Section (E) from Article 18 of the law. The section stipulated that members of illegal political organizations are not allowed to run for parliamentary elections.

Mr. Shbeilat, who was elected to the House in the March, 1984 by-elections, said this condition contradicted the Jordanian Constitution which "did not deprive those convicted of political crimes from running for elections."

In his comment on this point, Deputy Nawaish, who also was elected in 1984, pointed out that the constitution "allowed Jordanians to form political parties."

At this point the deputy of Irbid, Mohammad Al Haj Abdullah, suggested that the term "illegal parties" should be defined in the law as "those organizations whose goals contradict the Jordanian Constitution."

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai expressed full support for Mr. Haj Abdullah's proposal but suggested that "illegal political parties" should be defined as "those whose goals and principles contradict the Jordanian constitution."

The House approved the amendment and Mr. Shbeilat later told the Jordan Times that although he still opposed the law he considered the amendment "an achievement."

Political parties have been illegal in Jordan since 1957. Another controversial point raised by Dr. Nawaish was the non-refundable JD 500 nomination fee which all candidates should pay prior to their candidacy. According to Dr. Nawaish, the "high nomination fee" would restrict the "opportunity for nominations to certain classes which can afford it."

The deputy of Jerusalem, Fuad Faraj, agreed with Dr. Nawaish's argument and suggested that the fee be reduced to JD 100. But Mr. Rifai protested saying that the government needed the nomination fees to cover the expenses of the election process. The present nomination deposit is JD 75. This amount has not been changed since 1960.

The draft law was then put to vote and was approved by a show of hands, with only Mr. Shbeilat and Dr. Nawaish opposing to it. Mr. Rifai thanked the House for passing the law, describing it as "an important turning point in our constitutional life."

In general, the debate of the law was rather chaotic and very brief and it was observed that most deputies were eager to pass the law without debate. Some members kept on interrupting Mr. Shbeilat and Dr. Nawaish urging them not to prolong the discussion.

Seven members who did not attend the House session were Edward Khamis (Bethlehem), Rizq Al Bataineh (Irbid), Musa Abu Ghass (Ramallah), Abdul Kader Al Saleh (Nablus), Ali Rimhi (Ramallah), Saud Al Qadi (northern Bedouins) and Farouk Hamdallah (Tulkarem).

The sixteenth member was Naim Al Tal (Irbid) who died last January.

Mr. Rifai said the government will announce a by-election to fill the vacant seat in Irbid as soon as Parliament was officially notified of the government of the vacancy.

Highlights of the electoral law on page 3.

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The winners of the five JAEA council seats were Mariam Bashir (217), Salem Akour (241), Samir Abu Na'meh (194), Abdul Majid Abu Rummam (264) and Samir Hubab (227).

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In a brief statement following the announcement of the results, Mr. Tal said that he "realises the size of the responsibility he will carry, and called on his colleagues to help him carry that responsibility."

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Mr. Gemayel left Beirut on Friday on a previously announced private visit to Austria, presidential palace sources said.

They declined to give details of the visit, but said the 44-year-old president expected to meet Austrian officials.

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Amman symposium calls on Iran, Iraq to end conflict

By Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An international symposium on the 66-month old Iran-Iraq war ended its deliberations here on Thursday with a call on the warring armies to withdraw immediately to the international borders as a prelude to entering peaceful negotiations without any preconditions.

The conference entitled "No-to-War, Yes-to-Peace" concluded its three-day discussions by issuing the "Amman-Declaration for peace," a 12-point formula outlining the basis for a peaceful settlement to the conflict.

The participants, who represent various pan-Arab and international institutions and federations associated with labour, education, law, economy and humanitarian issues also sent four cables to His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Iranian President Ali Khamenei.

Both cables to the King and to Prince Hassan expressed the participants' gratitude for their Royal patronage of the symposium. They also thanked Prince Hassan for the valuable points included in

his inaugural speech which also guided the participants' discussions.

While the cable to President Hussein voiced the conferees' support for Iraq and its people in resisting and fighting the Iranian aggression, the cable to Mr. Khamenei urged Iran to stop the war and to respond to all peaceful appeals guaranteeing sovereignty of both countries.

The seminar was organised by the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development. It was attended by more than 130 delegates representing states and organisations as well as an Iraqi delegation and two parties from the Iranian opposition — The Paris-based National Council of Resistance (NCR) and the Democratic Party

of Kurdistan (DPK).

The conference discussed the socio-economic impacts of the dispute on both countries' socio-economic development and labour situation and pointed out the importance of regional and international peace initiative to settle the war.

A lengthy debate followed a thorough report which was submitted by the ALO on the legal, social, economic and political dimensions of the war. And more than 60 speeches were delivered in response to the ALO report.

The "Amman-Declaration for peace" appealed to the U.N. secretary general, the Non-Aligned Movement and the goodwill mission of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to step up their efforts in reactivating their initiatives to bring about a peaceful and just settlement to the war.

The declaration also appealed to the Iranian government to respond to peace efforts, stop the war immediately and enter into peaceful negotiations without any preconditions.

The seminar considered Sept. 4 as an International Day for Peace in which all international bodies, federations and parliaments as

well as peace-loving people should organise debates to rally international public opinion in favour of halting the devastating war.

Two international non-governmental organisations did not participate in formulating and endorsing the "Amman-Declaration for peace" saying it was too politicised and contradicted with the purpose of the conference which aimed at seeking peaceful initiatives at non-governmental levels.

The Geneva-based International Commission for Jurists (ICJ) and the Defence of Children International were dissatisfied with the conference's declaration that adopted the NCR peace plan of March 13, 1983.

This peace plan, which was engineered by NCR and approved by Iraq, calls for an immediate declaration of a ceasefire in air, land and sea, to be followed by a withdrawal of both countries' forces to the international borders, exchange of all prisoners of war and the formulation of a peace treaty based on full respect for the national independence and sovereignty of both countries.

Fleet pullout is 'a setback for U.S.'

RABAT (R) — The withdrawal of the U.S. Sixth Fleet from the Gulf of Sirte off Libya is a setback for Washington, some Moroccan dailies said Friday.

The conservative daily L'Opinion published by the old-guard Istiqlal Party said, "there is no doubt that America has lost this trial of strength with Libya."

The Communist opposition daily Al Bayane, published by the Party of Progress and Socialism, said: "In a world Reagan has been forced to retreat."

It said the "premature" U.S. withdrawal was "unconsciously a retreat motivated by a series of factors that have turned the Sixth Fleet's aggressive adventure into a new political defeat for American imperialism."

On Thursday the foreign ministers of Italy and Morocco discussed Mediterranean and Middle East problems, highlighted by the clashes between the United States

and Libya, according to an Italian government statement.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali briefed Italy's Giulio Andreotti on an Arab League meeting which discussed the U.S.-Libyan clashes off North Africa.

In Damascus thousands of people led by senior government and ruling Baath Party officials shouted "death to American imperialism" in a demonstration here Thursday against U.S. presence in the Gulf of Sirte, witnesses said.

In Tripoli, Libya, flag-waving Libyans staging an anti-American protest in Tripoli were moved on by police.

About 100 young men wearing olive green fatigues gathered outside a hotel where Western journalists are based and marched to the Belgian embassy, which represents U.S. interests here.

Sudan, a key U.S. ally in Africa, condemned what it called criminal

U.S. aggression against Libya and pledged support for Tripoli.

A statement by the Sudanese council of ministers carried by the official Sudan News Agency said Sudan was following with "great concern the American provocations against Libya" and the subsequent military clashes in the disputed Gulf of Sirte.

In New Delhi, India reiterated grave concern over U.S. military actions against Libya to U.S. Ambassador John Gunther Dean, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said.

Zambia called on the United States and Libya to exercise maximum restraint in order to resolve the Gulf of Sirte conflict by peaceful means.

Afghanistan condemned the U.S. Sixth Fleet action against Libya as aggression and interference in Libya's internal affairs, the official Kabul Radio reported.

Rome, Bonn and Vienna boost security

VIENNA (R) — Austria, Italy and West Germany have stepped up protection of their U.S. embassies and boosted security at airports and borders since Libya threatened American targets abroad, government officials have said.

"We have stepped up security around the U.S. embassy, American offices and citizens — anything to do with America," Austrian Interior Ministry spokesman Alexander Hirschfeld told Reuters, but would give no details.

"For us it's business as usual," a spokeswoman at the Vienna embassy said. "If there are more guards outside the building, so much the better."

Rome has frequently been the scene of violence related to the Middle East conflict and police sources said armed guards had been reinforced around possible targets in the Italian capital.

Diplomatic sources said security would in any case be very high to protect U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz who arrived Friday for a three-day visit.

Mr. Shultz will inspect security precautions at the Rome embassy, which already has heavy doors and gates and rising steel barriers to block suicide car bomb attacks.

In West Germany police are keeping a special watch on U.S. installations, Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann said.

He told the Bonn General Anzeiger that U.S. installations were considered high risk and therefore closely guarded at all times, but the risk was "currently greater than usual."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Algerian quake causes panic

ALGIERS (R) — A mild earthquake caused panic Friday in the eastern Algerian town of Constantine but no damage or casualties were reported, the Algerian News Agency AFS said. The tremor shook the town 450 kilometres east of Algiers at 0257 GMT.

Kuwait 'committed to democracy'

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah has given assurances of the government's commitment to democracy, parliamentary sources have said. The crown prince, in talks with the speaker of the National Assembly and heads of its committees, dismissed as groundless rumours the assembly might be dissolved or transformed into a consultative council, the sources said. The current assembly, elected a year ago, has been unusually assertive. The crown prince nevertheless was quoted as saying "the government supports the march of democracy in Kuwait."

Djibouti minister in Seoul

SEOUL (R) — Djibouti Foreign Minister Moumin Bahdon Farah has arrived in Seoul for a five-day visit to South Korea. He will have talks with Foreign Minister Lee Wong-Kyung, Construction Minister Lee Kyu-Hyo and Transportation Minister Sohn Soo-Ik on expanding ties between the two countries. He will also tour major industrial sites, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Ethiopian refugees reportedly starving

MOGADISHU (R) — Many Ethiopian refugees who have fled to Somalia are starving and the situation is deteriorating as large numbers cross the border each day, Somalia refugee chief Abdi Mohammed Tarrah said. Mr. Tarrah, head of the Somali Commission for Refugees, said 45,000 more refugees had arrived in the north-western border town of Togwajaleh since last month and food was running out. "Old refugees in camps are starving while in parallel a new influx is taking place on a massive scale," he told reporters. Mr. Tarrah urged the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to prevent a disaster and said the present suffering was a disgrace to the international donor community. Hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians have fled to Somalia in the past few years, many of them after a border war in 1977-78.

Last Cyprus 'rebel' bishop dies

NICOSIA (R) — Cypriot Orthodox bishop Yennadios of Paphos, last survivor of three rebel church leaders whose support for Eoka-B guerrillas paved the way for the 1974 coup and Turkish invasion of Cyprus, died Thursday aged 93, the church here announced. Yennadios and two other bishops were defrocked by a major synod of Orthodox Churches in 1972 for rebelling against the President of Cyprus Archbishop Makarios, in support of Eoka-B, which sought to overthrow him with a campaign of bombings and killings. The rebels proclaimed Yennadios archbishop in the first major schism within the 1,500-year-old autonomous Cypriot Orthodox Church, but Makarios retained the support of Middle Eastern Orthodox and of most Greek Cypriots. Yennadios swore in ex-gunner Nicos Samson as president in the 1974 coup engineered by the Athens junta. Samson's regime collapsed a week later when Turkey invaded and occupied the northern third of Cyprus. Yennadios was the only rebel church leader to accept a pardon after Makarios died. Only his rank of bishop was restored, not his see in Paphos.

164 die in rebel attacks in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — A total of 110 separatists and 54 members of the Turkish security forces died in guerrilla incidents in 1983, military authorities have announced. The statement said seven guerrillas and four soldiers were killed in the first two months of this year. Turkish military statements refer to autonomy-seeking Kurdish rebels fighting the Turkish army as separatists.

2 senators postpone Mideast trip

WASHINGTON (R) — Two U.S. senators have postponed a planned trip to the Middle East and Senate sources cited U.S.-Libyan tension as the reason. Democrats Gary Hart of Colorado and Bennett Johnston of Louisiana were to leave Friday for a 10-day trip to Jordan, Egypt and Israel as part of a fact-finding mission for the Senate Armed Services Committee. A spokesman for Sen. Hart confirmed the trip had been called off but declined to give a reason. But a Senate source cited "the obvious situation — the statement of Libya and events of this week." Another Senate source said the senators did not fear they would be targets but did not want important security measures to be diverted to protect them.

Sudanese vote for new assembly on Tuesday

KHARTOUM (R) — More than five million Sudanese begin voting on Tuesday in an election essentially to decide what kind of Islam they wish to live under.

It is Sudan's first multi-party election for 18 years and voters will choose a constituent assembly of 264 members with a mandate to draw up a new constitution.

Islam has been the central theme of the election campaign, with the two main parties urging revision of the Sharia Law imposed in 1983 by ousted President Jaafar Numeiri.

An estimated 300 Sudanese had limbs amputated under Sharia in the year before Numeiri was toppled. Some had their hands cut off for petty theft.

The principal Muslim parties, Umma and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), want Sharia replaced by a more liberal version which takes account of Sudan's large pagan and Christian minorities.

They are expected to win the lion's share of the seats in the Arab north but the one unknown factor is the appeal of the hardline pro-Sharia National Islamic Front (NIF).

The election will bring a new cabinet of party politicians to replace the technocrat ministers who have run the country since the overthrow of Numeiri last April. A ruling council of generals will dissolve itself and return to barracks.

The election process has already run into trouble because civil war in the south has forced the postponement of voting in 37 southern constituencies, undermining the assembly's authority to make radical changes in the system of government.

The independent electoral commission said 5.98 million people, 73 per cent of those eligible, have registered to vote for more than 1,000 candidates from 15 parties over the 12-day polling period. The final results are due by April 16.

Contestants range from the NIF on the far right, through Arab nationalists and Socialists to the 40-year-old pro-Moscow Sudanese Communist Party on the left.

Regional and southern parties, many of them organised into the Sudanese Rural Solidarity Coalition to prevent a split vote in any one constituency, stand good chances in their regional strongholds and some of Khartoum's migrant shanty towns.

Politicians predict the Umma of former Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, great-grandson and political heir of Sudan's 19th century Mahdi, will win the largest bloc in the assembly — 30 to 40 per cent of the seats but short of an absolute majority.

His natural coalition partner is the DUP of Sharif Zein Al Abdin Al Hindi, a traditionally pro-Egyptian party which shared power with the Umma in the last period of multi-party rule in the 1960s.

No serious obstacles prevent the two groups from working together to achieve their aim of excluding Hassan Al Turabi's NIF from power after the elections, according to political and diplomatic sources.

Mr. Turabi, a persuasive Western-educated lawyer, helped Numeiri implement his controversial version of Sharia and the central plank in the NIF platform is that the next government should build on that foundation rather than dismantle it.

It is not clear if the NIF's appeal to the Islamic sympathies of many Sudanese will outweigh the stigma attached to Mr. Turabi and his associates for their collaboration with Numeiri in his final years of unpopularity.

The size of the NIF bloc in the assembly has important implications for the civil war in the south.

The rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have made repeal of Numeiri's Sharia one of their main conditions for a peace dialogue with any Khartoum government.

A strong NIF showing could tie the hands of the two large parties, which in their anxiety to assuage their Islamic credentials, restrict their criticisms of Sharia to aspects disputed by respectable jurists.

Mr. Sadeq tells his followers that Numeiri allowed amputation of hands for theft on insufficient evidence.

To counteract the NIF's appeal, the Umma and the DUP have also moved away from their loose alliance with the leftists to adopt a tougher pro-army line. On the south, where Mr. Turabi comes close to favouring a full military assault on the rebels.

Politicians say the two large parties have inadvertently assisted the NIF by failing to arrange an electoral pact, both contesting virtually all the northern seats and thus dividing the vote for moderate Islam.

Demjanjuk complains about court hearings in Hebrew

RAMLE (AP) — John Demjanjuk, the retired Ohio autoworker accused of being the cruel Nazi guard "Ivan the Terrible," complained Friday that court proceedings against him were being held in Hebrew, forcing him to rely on a translator.

Demjanjuk rose to make his complaint during a hearing in which he was ordered held in custody for an additional 15 days. It was the third such hearing since Demjanjuk's arrival here on Feb. 28 under an extradition order

from the United States.

"I don't talk to him in my mother tongue of Ukrainian, and yet he talks to me in Hebrew," Demjanjuk said in English, gesturing toward the chief prosecutor who stood on the other side of the room. "Is this right?"

Judge Aharon Simcha, president of the magistrate court, replied in English, assuring Demjanjuk that his attorney would receive a copy of the proceedings translated into English, and Demjanjuk sat down.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77311-19	21:05	25 Years of Rock
PROGRAMME ONE	21:55	News Summary
14:30	22:00	The Blues
14:35	22:05	News Summary
14:40	22:10	Country Music
15:30	22:15	News Headlines
17:10	22:20	Cine down
17:15	22:25	Children Programme
17:20	22:30	Different Strokes
18:25	22:35	Local Series
19:25	22:40	News Feature
20:30	22:45	News in Arabic
21:30	22:50	Arabic Series
22:30	22:55	Local programmes
23:30	23:00	Local Play
23:35	23:05	News Summary in Arabic
23:40	23:10	Play continued
PROGRAMME TWO		
18:40	19:00	Feuille des en fans
18:50	19:10	Koque 1 musique
19:00	19:30	News in French
19:10	19:40	Bergeval et fils
19:20	19:50	News in Hebrew
19:30	20:00	News in Arabic
19:40	20:10	Mind Your Language (last episode)
21:00	21:30	Starting the Actors
21:10	21:40	Saturday Variety Show
21:20	21:50	News in English
21:30	22:00	Feature Film: Airport 77
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 9560 KHz, SW Tel: 77411-19		
07:00	07:30	Light Music
07:30	08:00	Newsweek
08:00	08:30	Morning Show
08:30	09:00	News Summary
09:00	09:30	Pop Session
09:30	10:00	News Summary
10:00	10:30	Pop Session contd.
10:30	11:00	News Summary
11:00	11:30	Pop Session
11:30	12:00	News Summary
12:00	12:30	News Bulletin
12:30	13:00	Jordan Weekly
13:00	13:30	Music
13:30	14:00	Concert Hour
14:00	14:30	News Summary
14:30	15:00	Instrumentals
15:00	15:30	Old Favourites
15:30	16:00	Talking Points
16:00	16:30	Animal Vegetable Mineral
16:30	17:00	News Summary
17:00	17:30	Top Twenty
17:30	18:00	News
18:00	18:30	Date with a Star
18:30	19:00	The 15th Century A.H.
19:00	19:30	The Young Sound
19:30	20:00	News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS
* An art exhibition by Dr. Mahmoud Sadeq at the Jordan National Gallery (until March 30).	* A hand-drawn exhibition by the Soviet Republic of Belarussia at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 30).
* An exhibition with originals about the work of the German artist Christian Schud at the Goethe Institute (until April 3).	* An art exhibition by Mohammad Abu Zuhair at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery.
PLAY	CHURCHES
* An Arabic play for children entitled: "Abu Al Fawares Fee Ka'a Al Silak" daily at 10:30 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 31).	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 624590.
CULTURAL CENTRES	MUSEUMS
Royal Cultural Centre . Tel. 6610267	Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaic from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
American Centre . 643711	Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabbal Al Qal'a (Crested Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
British Council . 641520	
Goethe Institute . 651977	
Soviet Cultural Centre . 644203	
Spanish Cultural Centre . 624049	
Turkish Cultural Centre . 639777	
Haya Am City . 655195	
Hassan Youth Centre . 667181/6	
Y.W.C.A. . 641793	
Y.W.M.C.A. . 644221	
Amman Municipal Library . 637111	
University of Jordan Library . 843555	
PRAYER TIMES	
04:45	Fajr
05:28	(Sunrise) Duha
11:41	Dhuhr
15:13	'Asr
17:25	Maghrib
19:18	Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	MARITIME TRAFFIC
This information is supplied by Alia Information department at the Jordan International Airport, tel. (08) 53300-5, where it should always be verified.	Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:
ARRIVALS	* Welfare 3
06:30	Amn. Kavar and Sons Company, Tel. 622324-9 at your service.
07:30	Cairo (MS)
08:30	Larnaca (BA)
09:30	Aqaba (RJ)
09:35	Abu Dhabi (KU)
09:45	Kuwait (RJ)
09:55	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:00	Dhahran (RJ)
10:05	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
10:10	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:15	Singapore (RJ)
10:20	Riyadh (RJ)
12:10	Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
13:45	Kuwait (KU)
14:30	Larnaca (RJ)
17:30	New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:35	Cairo (RJ)
18:05	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:25	Beirut (ME)
18:30	Paris, Damascus (AF)
19:30	Tripoli (RJ)
19:35	Baghdad (IA)
19:45	Rome, Damascus (AZ)
20:25	Frankfurt, Damascus (LJ)
01:30	Baghdad (RJ)
DEPARTURES	WEATHER
06:30	It will be partly cloudy, with southerly moderate winds which will become in the afternoon southerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.
06:45	Frankfurt (LJ)
06:45	Damascus, Athens (OA)
07:15	Larnaca London (BA)
09:10	Brussels, Paris (RJ)
11:30	Brussels (RJ)
12:00	London (RJ)
12:15	Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15	Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:30	Rome, Madrid (RJ)
13:00	Larnaca (RJ)
13:30	Cairo (RJ)
13:50	Bahrain (GF)
15:00	Kuwait (RJ)
15:30	Karachi (RJ)
15:45	Bahrain, Dubai (RJ)
20:15	Jeddah (RJ)
20:25	Baghdad (IA)
21:15	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:30	Baghdad (RJ)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate	891228
Amman civil defence	198, 199
Amman fire	271293, 271311
Civil Defence Qawasmeh	770735
Civil Defence Deir Alla	57306
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade	198
First aid	630541
Blood bank	778303
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	622090-3
Police rescue	192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	636391
Electric Power Co.	636381/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints	771258
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08)	53300/60

HOSPITALS

Hassan Medical Centre	813813/2
Khaki Maternity, J. Amn	64281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amman	64244/2
Jabbal Amman Maternity	642362
Malles, J. Amman	661171/4
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His Majesty King Hussein Thursday presents certificates and awards to public security and police officers during a graduation ceremony at the police training institute.

King pays tribute to security forces

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Thursday paid tribute to the public security forces in Jordan and said that the security forces and the police have been fulfilling their duty towards their countrymen and the nation. The work of these forces has been a source of pride for Jordanians and has won their confidence and appreciation, the King said.

King Hussein was addressing a ceremony held to graduate a new batch of police officers at the Police Training Institute in Zarqa.

"Thanks to the security forces' alertness and devotion, Jordan is now enjoying true security and stability and the country has been able to achieve great progress and prosperity," King Hussein said.

"Our security forces in urban and rural regions throughout the country have also been serving as a back-up for the Jordanian Armed Forces, helping to make this country strong and secure,

ensuring a safe internal front and enabling the Armed Forces to shoulder their responsibility in defending the homeland," King Hussein said.

The graduates included male and female police officers and others recruited by the badia police and the border guards. Referring to the role of women in the police force, King Hussein said the Jordanian women have proved capable of handling all types of jobs and he continued that the police women in this country have been performing their duty in the best possible manner, serving all sectors of the Jordanian public.

The King said that he was delighted to learn that the Public Security Department is implementing a comprehensive development programme with the purpose of upgrading the role and the services offered by the department to the public. The public security services should be continuously modernised to cope with developments and to enable them

to handle new responsibilities, he continued. "As I have promised, I will back this department and help it to attain the highest standard of efficiency and skill," King Hussein said.

At the outset of the ceremony, King Hussein inspected the graduates who later paraded before the viewing stand. This was followed by a speech delivered by Public Security Department Director Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali who pledged to continue efforts to promote the work and the performance of the security services in Jordan.

The ceremony was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Odeh, Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, senior officers, officials and members of the diplomatic corps.

No plans to cut oil prices, Rifai says

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The government is not contemplating any reduction in prices for oil products, despite the sharp plunge of crude oil prices in international markets, Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai announced Thursday.

"Although the prices of crude oil in international markets are fluctuating and unstable, Jordan is still importing oil at previously agreed rates and is paying higher prices than the international market price for crude oil," Mr. Rifai told the Lower House of Parliament on Thursday.

Jordan presently obtains its oil from Saudi Arabia via pipelines and at a cost of \$28 per barrel. The international market prices of crude oil have dropped to \$12 per barrel.

Mr. Rifai's comments were in reply to a question raised by Balqa Deputy Zuhair Thounan Hussein. Mr. Hussein submitted a motion to the government proposing a reduction in local oil prices in view of dropping international oil prices. "No agreement has been reached with oil exporters over a new price for oil products," Mr. Rifai said, pointing out that Jordan cannot buy from the international oil market and have the oil shipped to Aqaba. "We have no facilities to pump the oil from Aqaba to the refinery in Zarqa," Mr. Rifai said.

The prime minister continued

that the government used to subsidise oil products at an annual cost of JD 40 million when oil prices were at a peak and he noted that Jordan did not raise the price of oil products at that time although the price of crude oil was high.

During Thursday's session, the prime minister and Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh replied to a number of enquiries and suggestions presented to the government.

Military service

Deputy of Aqaba Atti Abul Izz suggested that the government declare a general amnesty for young Jordanian men who had not joined the compulsory military service and who are out of the country. He pointed out that most of those who have evaded the compulsory service are students abroad.

According to the law, students abroad should periodically submit reports to prove that they are still enrolled in educational institutions or risk facing three months imprisonment. Those convicted of evading military service may be sentenced to one year imprisonment.

Mr. Rifai said that the government could not possibly declare a general amnesty for students who had evaded the compulsory military service because "it would be biased towards those

who are able to study abroad." Mr. Abul Izz also suggested that military service should be cut to one year from two years for university students. But Mr. Rifai said that the government could not endorse discrimination against those who cannot afford to continue their higher education.

Hospitals in Karak

Karak Deputies Salman Al Qudah and Dr. Nazih Amareen asked about a government plan to build two hospitals and a nursing school in their constituency. Dr. Amareen pointed out that the Karak Hospital is below the required standards and needs renovation.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh replied that he had been in Karak recently and that he agreed with Dr. Amareen that the present hospital needs to be improved. He also said that the ministry considers building two hospitals in Karak to be on top of its priorities and that the two projects are part of the new five-year development plan.

Dr. Hamzeh said that the ministry is seeking the help of the European Economic Community (EEC) to secure the equipment for the two hospitals.

Deputy of Amman Farah Abu Jaber urged the government to introduce comprehensive medical insurance for all citizens in the country.

Major highlights of the 1986 electoral law

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters and Writers

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Thursday approved the 1986 draft electoral law with a majority of votes. Following are highlights of the law as passed by the house in their 195-minute session on Thursday:

Article (1): The law is called the 1986 electoral law for parliament. It becomes official when published in the official gazette.

Article (2): The following words and terms shall have the meanings as shown:

Jordanian: Any person, male or female, who holds Jordanian nationality in accordance with the Jordanian naturalisation law.

Voter: Every Jordanian who has the right to elect members to parliament.

Vote-caster: Every voter who exercises his electoral rights.

Candidate: Every Jordanian whose application for parliamentary elections has been approved in accordance with the articles of this law.

Parliamentarian: Every Jordanian who has been elected as a member of parliament.

Administrative Governor: The governor in a governorate or the officer in the district or the director in a sub-district.

Constituency: Every part in the Kingdom assigned one or more seats in the parliament according to the articles of this law.

Election sub-district: Every part of a constituency where an election centre(s) has been assigned.

Voting Centre: The place named by the administrative governor of the constituency, where voting is to take place.

Reconsidering committee: The committee formed in every constituency under the chairmanship of the administrative governor and the membership of a judge and the registrar of the Civil Registration Department in the constituency.

Central committee: The committee formed in every constituency according to the articles of this law.

Personal election card: The personal card issued by the minister of interior for every voter according to the articles of this law.

Article (3): Every Jordanian who is 19 years old has the right to vote in the general elections if his (her) name is registered in the final voters list.

The following are deprived from their right to vote:

a) — Those who have been convicted for more than one year for a non political crime and who were not pardoned.

b) — Those convicted of bankruptcy and who were not reprieved.

c) — Persons in custody who have not been pardoned.

Article (4): The voter is only allowed to exercise his right to vote at the election centre where he (she) is registered and he (she) cannot vote more than once.

Article (5): Members of the armed forces, the public security forces and the civil defence are not allowed to vote whilst they are in service.

Article (6): The voters lists are formulated for each constituency for persons whose place of residence is within the boundaries of the constituency.

Article (7): The voters' lists are formulated by one or more committees appointed by the administrative governor of each city or town. The committees which formulate the voters lists comprises a chairman and two members who should be government employees. The committees should organise

the voters lists in accordance with instructions by the interior minister.

Article (8): Voters are registered on the basis of their civil registration cards.

Article (9): The voters lists must include the full name of the voter, his (her), date and place of birth, as well as permanent residence, number of civil registration card and its date and place of registration. A special committee entrusted with organising the voters lists has to prepare and sign three copies to be submitted to the administrative committee within a period of 15 days after the committee has been set up. The governor has to sign the three copies and keep one for himself.

The committee is not allowed to amend any of the copies unless corrections are called for and in accordance with special regulations and election law regulations.

The two copies are to be displayed for three days from the date on which the voters' lists are submitted to the governor. One of the two copies should be displayed in public while the other should be in the governor's office. The public display of the voters lists should last for ten days.

Voters whose names do not appear on the official list, either by mistake or fraudulently, have the right to ask for the inclusion of his name in the list. The voter(s) can object to the exclusion of other voters in the list and this objection should be submitted in writing, free of all fees, to the election review committee within seven days of publishing the voters' list.

a) — This provision concerns procedures in the court in case of contesting the voters list.

b) — The election review committee formulates the final voters lists for the different constituencies.

c) — The voters lists will be valid until the middle of August when the review election committee reevaluate the lists.

Article (10): A special election review committee should evaluate the voters' lists annually in the middle of August and this committee has the power to remove or add names of voters according to the updated information, provided that this information is consistent with the records at the Civil Registration Department. Any citizen can add his name to the list if he qualifies to do so.

Article (11): The specialised courts in different constituencies should supply the election review committee with reports on the criminal records, if any, for the constituents in the period between July 15-30 of every year in order to help the committee reevaluate the voters lists in August. The Civil Registration Department should supply the committees with lists of citizens who have reached the age of 19.

Article (12): The election review committee should publish the new voters list one week after the conclusion of its reevaluation of the old lists.

Article (13): Any citizen whose name does not appear in the new list can protest to the election review committee within ten days after the new lists are published. Any registered voter whose name



The Lower House of Parliament Thursday debates and approves the electoral law (Petra photo)

appears in the new lists may protest against any other name in the list or protest against the exclusion of any citizen from the list in his (her) constituency.

Article (14): The election committee should announce its decision regarding any complaint within three days after receiving the objection. The decisions of the committee can be appealed at the court within three days of being informed of the committee's decisions.

Article (15): The election committee should draw up the final voters lists and if the lists are not contested, they should be sent to the Ministry of Interior.

Article (16): The final lists of the election review committee will be considered official for any elections.

Article (17): When the King issues a decree calling for general elections, the government then decides the date which should be announced by the prime minister and published in the official gazette.

Article (18): Those wishing to nominate themselves for seats in the Lower House of Parliament should:

a) — Have held Jordanian citizenship for a minimum of 10 years and should not hold foreign nationality.

b) — Be a registered voter in the final voters list.

c) — Have reached the age of 30 at the end of the nomination deadline.

d) — Not have been convicted for a period exceeding one year for a non-political crime, offence or immoral crime.

e) — Not to belong to any illegal or other party which has aims, objectives and principles that clash with the Jordanian constitution.

f) — Should not be a party to contracts with government institutions except for contracts of property and building leases. This also applies to shareholders of companies with more than 10 members.

g) — Should not be a relative of the King as specified in a special law.

Article (19): Any person can nominate himself for a seat in the Lower House of Parliament in only one constituency.

Article (20): The following persons are not allowed to run for seats in the Lower House of Parliament unless they submit their resignation within one month before the elections start. The resignation has to be approved. These categories are: employees in ministries, government departments, official and public institutions, members of diplomatic corps and heads of municipalities.

Article (21): Nominations for the Lower House of Parliament seats must start 25 days before the election and will remain open for three days.

Article (22): Candidates must pay a non-refundable nomination fee of JD 500. The nominee has to submit two applications to the administrative governor of his constituency. The application should include the nominee's name, date and place of birth, religion, occupation and his permanent address as well as the seat he is contesting along with all other identification documents and papers in accordance with the election law. The nominee is then given a notice from the governor that the application has been received.

Article (23): The administrative governor should check and approve the presented nomination documents and should declare his approval or disapproval in a period of three days from receiving the application.

Article (24): If the administrative governor refuses the application, the nominee has the right to protest against the decision at the courts in his constituency within a period of two days. The court has to decide the case within a period of three days and its decision is final and the governor has to verify the reasons for refusing the nomination.

Article (25): Once the nomination application has been approved by both the administrative governor and the constituency's court, the administrative governor has to register the application for nomination in a special register and must organise the list of nominees to be displayed in public places within the constituency's boundaries.

Article (26): Any voter has the right to contest the nomination of any person running for election in his own constituency. He can protest to the Supreme Court within three days following the announcement of the candidates, as explained in article 25 of this law. The court must pass judgement on the case within five days.

Article (27): A provincial governor will have to declare the court's findings as soon as they are handed to him and he should also announce any adjustments to the list of the candidates in accordance with these findings. Once the amendments and the adjustments have been made, the list of candidates will be considered final.

The original text of the article stated that if more than one paper is found in the marked envelope all of them are considered void. The article was removed since article 43 cancels the use of envelopes which were replaced by marked papers.

Article (61) — In the original draft, number 60 in the amended law. This article concerns regulations which govern election campaigns. The draft stipulated that candidates should obtain prior approval from the administrative governor to use or rent premises to convene meetings with their supporters. The amendment removed this condition.

Article (62) (in the original draft 61 (the amended law)) — This article also governs the election campaign, the original banned the use of loud speakers during the campaign but the amendment confined the ban of loud speakers in vehicles to be used during the campaign.

Article (67) (the original draft) 66 (amended draft) — The original draft banned demonstration, the organisation of demonstrations and rallies during the election campaigns. The amended article removed this phrase completely from the law.

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a) — Name the sub-division of the constituency in question.

b) — Assign balloting centres and the number of voters casting ballots at each centre, provided the number does not exceed 700.

c) — Call registered voters to obtain election and identity cards

(Continued on page 5)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Hassan to review Mafrag plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will preside over a meeting of the five-year plan committee in Mafrag Governorate and which will be held on Tuesday April 1, according to a report in the Arabic daily newspaper Al Ra'i. The report added that Mafrag Governor Fayez Abbadi chaired a meeting to organise the final preparations for the five-year development plan panel.

Parliamentary team back from Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation has returned to Amman after representing Jordan in the conference of Arab-African parliamentary dialogue held in Morocco during the period March 21 to 23. The delegation was led by the member of the Upper House of Parliament Wasfi Maizrah.

ATF official wins Kuwaiti award

AMMAN (J.T.) — Secretary General of the Amman-based Arab Thought Forum (ATF) Sa'aduddin Ibrahim has won the Kuwaiti award for sociology and economy for 1986, according to a report in the Arabic daily newspaper Al Ra'i on Friday. The report added that the award, worth about \$40,000, is one of the largest international awards. Dr. Ibrahim is the head of Arab affairs at the Cairo-based political and strategic centre and is a professor of sociology at the American University of Cairo.

Professor of English leaves for London

AMMAN (Petra) — Dr. Lewis Mukattash, a professor of English at the University of Jordan, left for London Friday to take part in a conference on the teaching of English which is scheduled to start in Brighton on Monday. Dr. Mukattash will submit two researches on the teaching of English.

Dentistry congress continues

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The fifth national dental congress continued its meetings on Friday with a number of working papers presented by eminent researchers from Jordan and participating countries.

The congress, which opened its meetings on Thursday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, discussed papers focussing on maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, dental crowns and bridges, conservative dentistry and implantology.

Thursday's session was opened by Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh who deputised for the Crown Prince and included speeches by the organisers and key participants. An intensified special course on maxillofacial surgery was later held.

In his opening speech, Dr. Hamzeh expressed hope that the congress would arrive at comprehensive recommendations to encourage and improve dentistry in the Kingdom.

Jordan Dentists Association (JDA) President Walid Maraga said that the association has always worked to boost dentistry in the Kingdom.

How the government's version of the electoral law was amended

The legal committee of the Lower House of Parliament amended a number of articles in the government's draft of the 1986 electoral law. The following are the major articles which were amended by the committee:

Article (3) — The original text stated that those sentenced to more than one year imprisonment and who were not pardoned in a general amnesty are not allowed to vote. The amended article stated that this persons are allowed to vote if pardoned but not necessarily as part of a general amnesty.

Article (9) — The original article had one section which remained in the final draft but five new sections concerning the organisation of the voters lists were added to the article.

Article (12) — The original article did not stipulate publishing the final voters lists in the newspapers.

Article (13) — The original article allowed those who want to contest the exclusion of their names or other names from the voters lists to do so within three days of displaying the lists in public. The amendment extended the period to 10 days.

Article (18) — This article concerns the conditions for accepting the nominations for parliamentary elections. The original article did not include the stipulation that the

candidates should not be holders of a foreign nationality.

Article (19) — This article said that any citizen could register himself as a nominee for Parliament in one constituency but this was amended to stipulate that he could only do so in the constituency where he is registered as a voter.

Article (24) — This article concerns the right of the citizen, whose application for nomination was refused, to appeal to the court against the decision. It was amended so that the administrative governor should explain the rejection of any nomination to the applicant.

Article (25) — This article concerns the public display of the final list of the candidates. It was amended to say that the lists should also be published in at least two daily newspapers.

Article (31) — This article concerns the division of the constituencies but the amended version added that the new divisions will be in effect from the first day of the first election.

Article (36) — The original article stipulated that the numbers of the voters in each election sub-district in the constituencies should not be less than 700. It was increased to 1,000 after the amendment.

Article (43) — This article concerns the balloting process and in the original draft it stated that the envelopes should be stamped with

the Interior Ministry seal while the amendment stated that the ballot papers themselves should be stamped with the ministry's seal and signed by the chairman of the balloting supervising committee. The amendment cancelled the usage of envelopes for the ballot papers.

Article (45) — The original article stated that voters should be supplied with blank white paper for balloting. The amended article removed this condition since article 43 said that this type of paper should be replaced by special paper stamped with the Interior Ministry seal.

Article (46), (47) and (48) were amended in accordance with the amendment of article 43 concerning the replacement of voting envelopes with the Interior Ministry seal by special ballot papers with the Interior Ministry seal.

Article (49) — This article includes procedures to ensure the fairness of vote counting. The amendment added a provision which gives the candidate or his representative the right to attend the vote counting provided he or his representative has written permission signed by the administrative governor.

Article (51), (52) and (53) concern the vote counting but they were amended in accordance with changes to article 43.

Article (54) — This article was totally removed by the legal com-

mittee. The original text of the article stated that if more than one paper is found in the marked envelope all of them are considered void. The article was removed since article 43 cancels the use of envelopes which were replaced by marked papers.

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(Continued on page 5)

CONDOLENCES

The editor and staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the loss of

Salma Beirut Kettaneh

who passed away on Thursday, March 27, 1986 and express their heartfelt condolences to her daughter and son-in-law, Ellen and Rami Khouri.

Jordan Times

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Peace in the Mediterranean

WE welcome Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's call for the two superpowers to pull out their naval forces from the Mediterranean. We also are proud of a decision by the Lower House of Parliament, condemning American naval exercises off the Libyan shore and the aggression on Libyan territory. By launching an attack on Libya, the United States has caused so much damage to its own prestige. The American aggression was of course supported by Israel's Prime Minister Shimon Peres whose Zionist state is oriented towards committing such terrorist actions on the Arabs. The United States which has now stopped its exercises off the Libyan shore did that under pressure from world public opinion and fearing complications and repercussions that might lead to further worsening of international relations. International pressure is useful to force any power to desist from committing aggression on other countries. But the end of the exercises in the Mediterranean does not end the problem. What does is a positive response to Gorbachev's proposal for pulling out all naval forces from that sea and making it a zone of peace.

Al Dustour: Demonstration of national unity

THE open and frank debate in parliament on Thursday demonstrates the democratic spirit of the deputies and reflects freedom in this country. The executive and legislative authorities were brave in openly tackling the new electoral law which was later endorsed by the house. Both authorities are keen on providing the most suitable provisions to govern the elections, and safeguard national interests. The government responded favourably to amendments introduced by the house's legal committee and the deputies displayed responsibility for the nation's interest and full cooperation with the government in bringing this law into force. The new law conforms to social and demographic developments in the Kingdom since 1960 when the existing law came into being. The new law clearly came to cope with the political, social and economic developments in this country and therefore it won the approval of both authorities and is backed by the people who will be affected by it. The equal distribution of seats between the East and West banks reflects the country's adherence to the national unity which came into being in 1950.

Sawt Al Shaab: Another Israeli aggression

THE new Israeli raid on refugee camps in south Lebanon is another barbaric aggression committed by the Zionists on our Arab brothers in Lebanon. The new aggression came at a time when the Lebanese are escalating their military and political efforts to evict the invaders from Lebanon. The Israelis are the enemies of Lebanon's unity and independence and they are the only beneficiaries of the continuation of divisions among the Lebanese factions. The Israelis who succeeded in fuelling the war in Lebanon over the past decade and brought destruction to the country through their invasion, continue the drive to dismember Lebanon. Such attitude on the part of our common enemy should not be confronted by mere complaints to the United Nations or statements of condemnations, but rather through unity among Lebanese ranks and determination to force the invaders to withdraw from Arab land. The Israeli aggression which coincided with the American attack on Libya and the stepped up Iranian aggression on Iraq should be confronted by a strong and firm Arab stand.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: The failure of Camp David

THE seventh anniversary of the Camp David agreement passed this week as the Palestine issue remains unresolved and the whole Middle East region remains as far from peace as ever. This agreement which caused Egypt to be isolated from the rest of the Arab World and weakened the Arab ranks did nothing to solve the Palestine issue. This agreement paved the way for an Israeli invasion of Lebanon and Israel's further swallowing up of Arab land in Palestine, coupled with all forms of Zionist terrorist actions against the Arab nation. These are lessons that we must learn as they are all indications of Israel's real intentions against the Arabs. The Arabs, who have been only resorting to complaints and condemnations, should find another method of dealing with Israel. Peace for the Arabs cannot be achieved through wishful thinking and cannot be realised through bilateral and separate agreements with the Israelis, but rather through a determined struggle and a unified stand. A strategic balance with the Israeli enemy should form the first step towards achieving this goal and should pave the way for a permanent peace.

Al Dustour: Arab summit urgently needed

THE Arab foreign ministers who met in Tunis have decided to make urgent contacts with all Arab governments for holding an Arab summit meeting. This decision is a step in the right direction, and could pave the way towards the unification of Arab ranks and a joint Arab action that would safeguard national interest for the present and the future. Saudi Arabia announced it would host such a summit meeting which is timely and which comes at a moment when the Arabs are in dire need of unity in the face of the common challenges and threats. The Arabs have missed numerous opportunities for holding this summit and have lost many chances that could have unified their ranks and deterred their enemies from committing aggression on them. Over the past years of total disarray in Arab ranks, the Israelis were able to launch one aggression after the other on different parts of the Arab World, and the Iranians were able to pursue their aggression on Iraq. This state of affairs also opened the way for the Americans to launch their recent attack on Libyan territory.

U.S. military challenge to Libya raises questions

By Christopher Hanson
 Reuter

WASHINGTON — Behind the dramatic headlines recounting the U.S. military challenge to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi lie two big questions: What was Washington's purpose and what has the action accomplished?

For Reagan administration spokesmen, the answers are simple: Washington sought to assert its right to passage in what it claims are international waters and accomplished this by sending a navy force into the Gulf of Sirte, which Libya claims as its own.

After Libya fired missiles at the force on Monday, the United States exercised its right to self-defence, twice striking a radar site and sinking or damaging three or four Libyan patrol boats, the White House said.

There is little dispute that the Reagan administration has succeeded in asserting U.S. navigation rights in the gulf, as it says it has done seven times since 1981.

But many independent analysts are convinced its real goal in crossing Qadhafi's "line of death" across the mouth of the gulf was more complex and ambitious — to provoke Libya into an attack and then to retaliate in punishment for what the Americans claim is its backing of world terrorism, including the Rome and Vienna airport attacks on December 27 that resulted in 20 deaths.

There is disagreement among experts on the Middle East and terrorism over whether this tactic

will work. Some say it might bolster Qadhafi's backing in Libya and goad him into hitting U.S. civilian targets around the world. Acknowledging the danger, the State Department has ordered U.S. embassies on to a high state of alert.

Journalist Bob Woodward, who helped expose the Watergate scandal, reported in Wednesday's Washington Post that a U.S. decision to take strong measures against Libya was made last July when Pentagon planners began seeking an appropriate opportunity to strike.

Other reports say the Sirte operation

was approved by President Reagan on March 14, after intelligence reports suggested Libya was spying on U.S. embassies for possible attacks — an allegation publicly aired by the State Department on Wednesday.

Defence Department officials have been quoted by some U.S. newspapers as saying there was an option code-named "prairie fire" for big attacks on Libyan targets if any Americans were killed.

The Defence Department said on Wednesday that although no Libyan missiles were fired at U.S. jets on Tuesday, American forces again struck at patrol boats and a radar missile site near the coastal town of Sirte.

The seeming lack of further Libyan provocation after U.S. strikes on Monday led reporters to ask at a news briefing if the aim of the operation was in fact to punish Qadhafi.

U.S. officials denied it, saying the radar site was being repaired and that the patrol boats had been speeding towards U.S. targets in clear evidence of hostile intent.

Miami university law professor Bernard Oxman, an expert on sovereignty claims affecting the Gulf of Sirte, told Reuters the legal justification for the repeat of U.S. attacks was ambiguous but that Washington could make a

strong case under international law.

Leading analysts such as former State Department Libya specialist William Lewis, who has met Qadhafi, have questioned the effectiveness of this week's operation in curbing the volatile leader.

"I don't think it will have any effect on Qadhafi — he doesn't have that type of personality," Lewis said.

Military pressure against Qadhafi appears to have had little impact in the past.

American jets operating over the Gulf of Sirte in 1981, asserting navigation rights as in the current confrontation, shot down two

Libyan jets. Libya persisted in its claim to the gulf and in what Washington deemed terrorist actions.

France repeatedly has sent troops and planes to beat back incursions into Chad by Libyan-backed rebel forces. But the rebels have returned each time the French forces have gone.

Egypt sent tanks into Libya against Qadhafi in the mid-1970s, but afterwards said Libya had persisted in plotting to kill Egyptian leaders and to destabilise Sudan.

Lewis said Qadhafi's most likely response to the naval confrontation would be to send "hit squads" against U.S. targets.

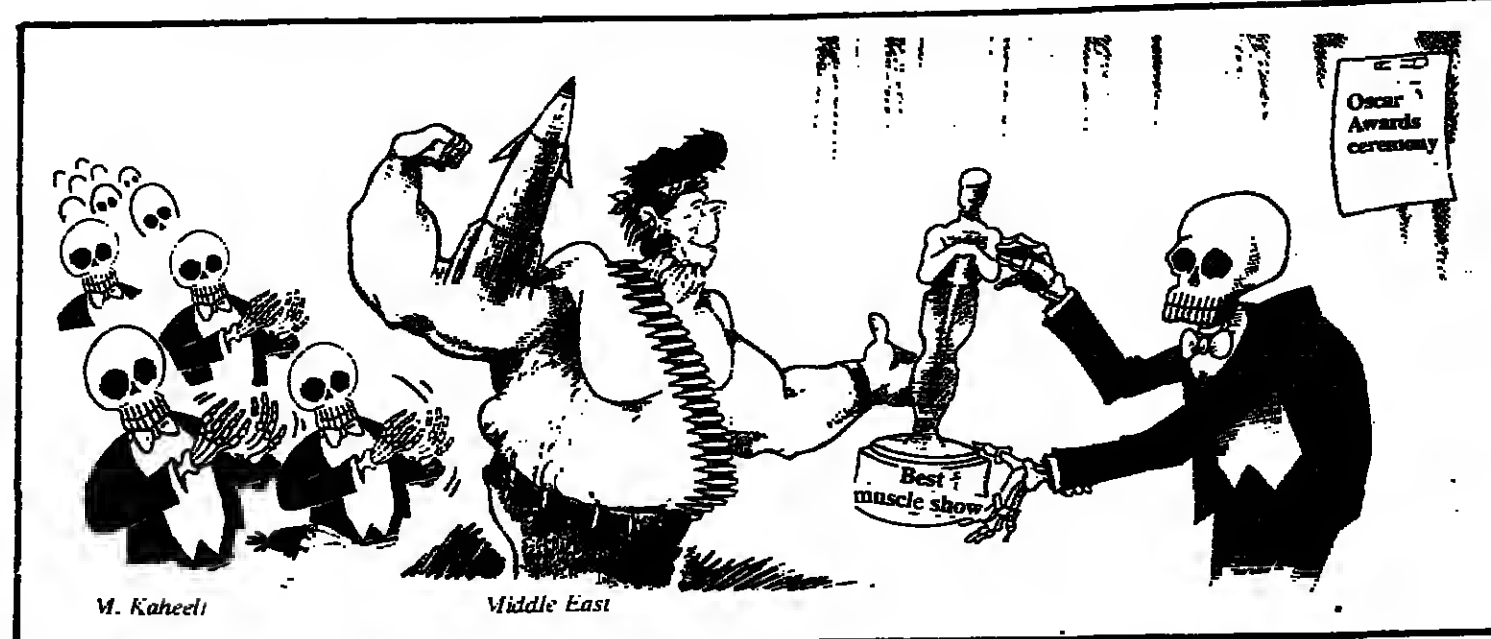
"Qadhafi has been humiliated and when a bedouin is humiliated he picks his time and place to strike back," he said.

Former U.S. counter-terrorism officials agreed.

Another prospect was that Qadhafi's support would be bolstered at home, where he had not been popular with elements of the military, the Muslim clergy, and the small middle class, according to a former air force intelligence expert on the Middle East, Joseph Churba.

The Post's Woodward has reported an operation by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) involving Libyan exile groups seeking Qadhafi's overthrow — a bid which could be undermined by the naval confrontation.

"For the moment, at least, the United States turned the difficult into the impossible," wrote Post columnist Richard Cohen, frequently a Reagan critic.



Pinochet indignant but unmoved by external, internal pressure

By Simon Alterman
 Reuter

SANTIAGO — Chilean President Augusto Pinochet, angry over unprecedented U.S. pressure and facing a new round of opposition protests at home, has vowed not to alter his plan to stay in power until at least 1989.

Diplomats say Pinochet appears confident that he can control any unrest, even though his opponents have taken heart from inc-

reasingly outspoken criticism from Washington of the rightist military government which took power in a 1973 coup.

Even the Communist-led Popular Democratic Movement (MDP) hailed the U.S. decision last week to sponsor a U.N. resolution deploring Pinochet's human rights record, the first time it has voted against Chile since the 1973 coup.

"This switch by the United States (is) obviously the result of the

State Department perceiving the extreme isolation and weakness of the dictatorial regime which they helped to impose on the Chilean people," MDP President German Correa said.

Explaining the U.S. change of heart at the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Schifter said "quiet diplomacy" had failed to end killings, torture and kidnappings.

Schifter said the vote, based on a U.N. report which said human rights violations were fundamentally due to the lack of democracy, reflected the Reagan administration's "deep interest in peaceful change in Chile to democratic rule."

The point was reinforced by White House chief of staff Donald Regan, who said in a television interview last weekend that the

United States was not trying to overthrow Pinochet "at this moment," but was opposed to all forms of dictatorship.

Such comments came only weeks after Washington played a role in the final stages of the crises in Haiti and the Philippines which ended years of rule by Jean-Claude Duvalier and Ferdinand Marcos.

Chilean opposition leaders say the events in Haiti and the Philippines gave them a big psychological boost. Former foreign minister Gabriel Valdes urged Chileans to follow the example of the social mobilisation in those two nations.

After Haiti, after the Philippines, the conscience of the world turns towards Chile," Valdes said in a speech last week to members of his Christian Democratic Party.

"Chile's hour has come. It is time to make a final choice between dictatorship and democracy," he said.

Diplomats said, however, that splits in the opposition and popular disenchantment with the forms of protest tried so far could make it hard to spark mass demonstrations like those of 1983 which threatened Pinochet's hold on power.

"The government seems to think it is very comfortably seated as far as internal pressures are concerned," one diplomat said.

On the foreign front, where the European Community weighed in with another critical statement this week, Pinochet and his colleagues have responded with a verbal barrage. But government sources insist that he is essentially unperturbed.

"If he were really worried by

Haiti and the Philippines or by the U.S. attitude, he would have done something different," one government source said.

Pinochet was clearly angry, however, when he broke a long public silence on a provincial tour this week.

"Chile has a course, which we ourselves fixed and there can be no compromise on that course... No foreigner, however powerful he may be, can come and impose his will on us," he said, hanging a lecture with his fist during an improvised speech.

A day earlier, Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, navy commander-in-chief and a member of the military junta, called Reagan "insolent" and said that Washington had criticised Chile to divert U.S. public attention from the political embarrassment of the space shuttle Challenger disaster.

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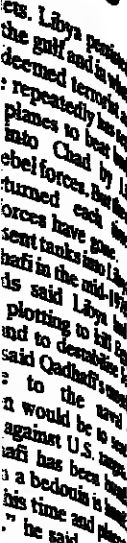
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Excitement builds up for African Safari despite slashing distance

NAIROBI (R) — Local resentment at the shortening of the Safari motor rally which starts Saturday is unlikely to detract from the excitement of the annual high-speed chase across some of Africa's most demanding terrain.

The prospect of torrential downpours as the long rainy season gets underway, and of hostile warriors throwing stones are added hazards for the field of more than 70 drivers during their five-day, 4,206 kilometre journey.

Organisers were ordered to slash 1,000 kilometres from the event by the Paris-based International Motor Sports Federation (FISA). They did so grudgingly, knowing that if they did not comply they might lose world championship status and along with it vital commercial sponsorship.

Five times Safari victor Shekhar Mehta of Kenya, an opponent of the shorter distance who will drive a Peugeot 205 T16 this year, said: "People come here because it is tough, so why make it easy?"

Many experts believe the Toy-

ota Celica TC is the ideal Safari car, possessing the strength to tackle the African dirt roads which frequently get washed away by flash floods.

Sweden's Bjorn Waldegaard leads the Toyota challenge and is widely tipped to repeat his 1984 victory. That was a record year for Toyota as Waldegaard is still the only overseas driver to have won the African Classic twice and Toyota are the only works team to have won at the first attempt.

Waldegaard's codriver is Fred Gallagher of Britain, out to repeat his 1985 triumph with Finland's Juhani Kankkunen in another Toyota. Kankkunen has switched to the four-wheel-drive Peugeot 205 T16 in which he won the Swedish rally last month.

The Finn said Friday the Peugeot could only be used to 60 or 70

per cent of its power in the Safari rally because of the tough terrain, but it was such a powerful car he remained confident of winning again.

Erwin Weber of West Germany returns to try again having suffered bitter disappointment last year when the engine of his Opel Manta ingested a tiny nut and ground to a halt when he was within sight of victory in his first world championship drive. Since then he has switched to Toyota.

The main competition to the Toyotas and Peugeots is likely to come from Lancia who have entered three of the well-tried rally 037s rather than risk their new S4.

Massimo Biasion of Italy, who finished second in the 1985 Portuguese rally, is competing in the Safari for the first time and Finland's super-fast Markku Alen is back after being forced to retire before the end of the first leg last year.

The third Lancia driver is Kenya's Vic Preston Junior who

has finished the Safari nine times out of 14 starts and has been setting up the Lancia in local rallies.

Citroens withdraw

Rally organisers said Thursday that two new turbocharged Citroens have been pulled out of the Safari.

"The new car is not quick enough," said spokesman Richard Seth-Smith, referring to the four-wheel-drive Citroen BX4TC, which was to have made its first Safari appearance this week.

The cars were to have been driven by two French crews, Philippe Wambegue, who finished 18th in 1984, with Navigator Jean-Bernard Vieu, and Jean-Claude Andruet and codriver Annick Peuvigne.

The new Citroen has had a rocky start and Wambegue and Vieu did not last long in the Monte Carlo rally in January when their water pump split on the second stage.

Kuwait retains lead in Gulf soccer contest

BAHRAIN (R) — Kuwait, five-time champions, Friday retained top position in the seven-nation Gulf soccer tournament with a 1-0 win over United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The Kuwaitis, just freed from a ban imposed by FIFA for alleged irregularities, have won all their three matches to date.

Kuwait moved the ball quickly Friday, but were unable to penetrate the UAE defences until the second half when substitute striker Moayed Haddad scored in the 70th minute.

In Friday's other match Saudi Arabia scored their first win of the tournament, beating unfancied Oman 3-1 in a lively game.

Saudi striker Majed Abdullah opened the scoring in the 43rd minute from the penalty spot. Oman rallied and striker Gholam Khamis netted the equaliser in the 83rd minute.

Saudi determination eventually overcame a dogged Omani defence and Abdullah got the winner a minute from the end.

On Thursday, Qatar held titleholders Iraq to a 1-1 draw. World Cup finalists Iraq have so far failed to win a game, previously also tying with Bahrain and the UAE.

Qatar earlier defeated Oman. Thursday's two goals were both scored in the second half after a lacklustre first period in which both sides lacked coordination in pushing forward weak attacks.

Iraq opened the scoring in the 61st minute when striker Habbib Jaafar penetrated the Qatar defence. Qatar's Adel Khamis retaliated with a goal in the 83rd minute after a concerted offensive on the Iraqi net.

On Saturday, Qatar plays Bahrain.

Becker accepts UNICEF sports ambassador title

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Reigning Wimbledon champion Boris Becker accepted yet another title Thursday that of Sports Ambassador for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Becker said he was still unsure of his specific duties.

"I can't say a date where I am going somewhere or doing something, but I'm doing something for sure," Becker said at a news conference. The West German teenager said he had contacted UNICEF after reading about starving children around the world.

"When you can really help people because they are dying from hunger and from so many reasons, of course, I have to help," the

18-year-old tennis star said. Becker, who started the year by finishing second to Ivan Lendl in the Masters Tournament, has since been in a slump and hit bottom with a first-round defeat last week in Brussels.

"I took some time off after the Masters because I was playing so much," he said. "I didn't play anything for three weeks. It takes time to get your tournament rhythm again."

"It is going to be much tougher this year than last year," said Becker. "Now everybody knows me, knows how I'm playing. It is a big win for them if they beat me and they get very pumped up to play me. That's the way it is."

Hungarian star's career saved by love

BUDAPEST (R) — Should Hungary's Lajos Detari emerge as a star of the World Cup finals in Mexico much of the credit must be to his pretty wife Andrea.

Until he met Andrea, daughter of Imre Komora, manager of his Hungarian club, Honved Budapest, Detari had seemed to be following the same self-destructive course that has ruined the careers of so many talented players.

Now, however, "Dome" Detari has established himself in the Honved team which won the 1984 and 1985 Hungarian league championships and become a stalwart of the national team's midfield.

Detari has been a crowd-puller in Hungarian soccer since first making an impression with Honved juniors in the 1970's when his skills were compared to those of the greats of the Magyar team of the fifties.

Unfortunately, and somewhat inevitably, all the attention went to his head. He became Honved's problem child, missing training, enjoying a high life and refusing to take advice or orders — until Andrea came on the scene in 1983.

Detari's reformation started as he set about convincing Andrea and her father of his serious intentions both on and off the pitch. Detari's dedication played a major part in Honved's triumphs and also carried him into the national side for Hungary's first World Cup qualifying match against Austria in Budapest in September, 1984.

He helped Hungary to a 3-1 win with a perfect cross for Antal Nagy to head the decisive goal and three weeks later in Rotterdam scored with a superb drive to launch Hungary's unexpected 2-1 win against The Netherlands.

He went on to be voted Hungarian player of the year last season and is this year's top league scorer with 22 goals in 22 matches.

Detari married Andrea last July and this seemed to boost his stature and confidence even more. Earlier this month, he demonstrated the full range of his tal-

ent, flair, imagination and finishing power during Hungary's 3-0 defeat of Brazil, scoring the opening goal and setting up the other two.

Though the reformation may seem complete, his father-in-law gave a hint of the stress and strain still facing Detari recently.

During a match in which Detari was not pulling his full weight, Komora told him: "The crowd may be yelling Dome, Dome, but on this form you've only got 10 more minutes on the pitch unless you pull yourself together."

Detari, however, has become a permanent part of Hungary's midfield where his consistency allows Tibor Nyilasi, the veteran captain, more freedom to roam.

At 31, Mexico will be Nyilasi's third, and last, World Cup final. After two failures, he will be hoping to demonstrate his skills to the full this time.

In 1978, he was instrumental in ruining a fine Hungarian team's chances when he was sent off for protesting in a first round match against hosts Argentina and in Spain in 1982 he walked under pressure, reviving doubts about his commitment.

Since then, he has moved to join Austria Vienna where he has cast off much of the petulance and impulsiveness which marred his earlier days with Ferencváros.

Then, at 24, Nyilasi, stunned Hungarian soccer by announcing he intended to retire following his dismissal in Argentina.

It took a year to persuade him to return.

Nyilasi has recently undergone a spine operation in Budapest. He is reported ready to resume training at the end of April. Doctors say they are confident he will be fit for Mexico.

Hungarian coach György Mezey has made him team captain, confident his experience will lead the team into the last eight in Mexico.

His presence adds confidence and with Detari taking over in midfield, Nyilasi will have more freedom of movement.

Clash of British giants may decide most thrilling championship race

LONDON (R) — English First Division soccer champions Everton face a gruelling Easter weekend as they continue their quest for a domestic league and cup double without goalkeeper Neville Southall.

The consistently reliable Welsh international suffered a seriously dislocated ankle during his country's 1-0 victory over Ireland Wednesday and will miss the rest of what promises the most exciting finish to the championship for nine years.

Such a loss on top of continuing injuries to midfielders Peter Reid, Kevin Sheedy and Paul Bracewell and defenders Kevin Ratcliffe, Gary Stevens and Derek Mountfield might well have persuaded most other teams to throw in the towel.

But Howard Kendall's side are nothing if not resilient and will go into their fixtures on Saturday, when they entertain Newcastle, and on Monday, when they visit title rivals Manchester United, with every intention of clinging to their goal-difference lead over city rivals Liverpool.

Kendall, typically, interpreted the loss of Southall as a chance for reserve Bobby Munns to shine. "It is the chance he has been waiting for," he said, adding that he felt Southall was the best goalkeeper in the country — "even better than Peter Shilton."

Newcastle, who have risen to ninth after a run of five wins, will

be stern opponents — but nothing like as determined as third-placed Manchester United, three points behind Everton and Liverpool, who must win on Monday if they are to sustain their title bid.

United visit struggling Birmingham on Saturday and will be strengthened by the return of inspirational captain Bryan Robson, his dislocated shoulder protected by a harness.

On paper it is a comfortable-looking trip. But the Blues have revived considerably since the arrival of new manager John Bond, as last week's 3-0 victory at Aston Villa proved.

Liverpool, meanwhile, face two tough matches against powerful north country teams. They visit Football Association (F.A.) Cup semi-finalists Sheffield Wednesday — Everton's opponents on March 5 — and then meet Manchester City at home.

Two convincing wins for Kenny Dalglish's in-form team, 6-0 victors over Oxford last week, would lift them clear at the top if Everton, beaten at Luton last week, stumble again.

London's trio of title challengers face a weekend of cross-town action which may effectively end their hopes of the championship. Chelsea play West Ham and then visit QPR, Arsenal go to Spurs and then play Watford twice and West Ham host Spurs after their visit to Chelsea.

Arsenal manager, chief coach quit

Meanwhile, manager Don Howe and chief coach John Cartwright quit Arsenal Friday one week after the English First Division side said they wanted Barcelona coach Terry Venables to take charge next season.

Howe, who is also number two to England manager Bobby Robson, asked to be released from his contract last weekend when news of the approach to Venables leaked out. Friday his wish was granted by Chairman Peter Hill-Wood.

Chief scout Steve Burtenshaw will take charge of the side for the remainder of the season, beginning with Saturday's away game against north London neighbours Tottenham.

Howe has paid the penalty for his failure to win a trophy in two seasons that have seen a sharp fall in attendances, losses of \$2 million and some feeble displays of characterless football.

Hill-Wood has also been annoyed by the off-field antics of some of his key players. Four stars, including then-team captain Graham Rix and Scotland striker Charlie Nicholas, were convicted of drink-driving offences in quick succession.

Howe, a former Arsenal player, succeeded Terry Neill at the helm of the prestigious north London club in April 1984 while Cartwright was brought in at the beginning of this season to instill fire into the Arsenal squad.

Arsenal, in fifth place, are still just eight points behind division-leading Everton.

Navratilova to be allowed to compete in Czechoslovakia

PRAGUE (R) — Martina Navratilova, who will return to the country of her birth when she represents the United States in the Federation Cup Tennis competition in Prague in July, will have no problems entering the country, a top sports official said Thursday.

Antonin Himl, head of Prague's Physical Education and Sports Association, said Navratilova would be allowed back into the country from which she defected in 1975.

Himl said: "We would prefer that she has problems defeating our Czechoslovak tennis players."

Navratilova, the world's top woman player, was picked to represent the U.S. team two days ago. In her only previous Federation Cup appearances she helped Czechoslovakia to victory in 1975 shortly before her defection to the United States, then she led her adopted country to victory in 1982.

Himl also indicated Czechoslovakia would like to settle its differences with world number one Ivan Lendl, who was omitted from the Davis Cup tie against India earlier this month.

"Lendl is our number one player. There are differences on some issues. I am sure that everything will become clear to the satisfaction of both parties," he said. He said: "The door is not closed — quite the opposite."

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Economy

U.S. posts remarkable trade deficit contraction

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. trade deficit narrowed in February as imports declined and export sales gained, the Commerce Department said Thursday.

The White House predicted a steady decline in the trade deficit as foreign currencies continue to rise in value against the dollar.

The deficit, which measures the excess of imports over exports, totaled \$12.5 billion in February, its lowest level in five months. The shortfall was a record \$16.5 billion in January.

Exports attributed the improvement to world oil prices, which have fallen to 1973 levels, and to the decline of the dollar. Some said the full impact from the lower dollar would come later.

This is welcome news and should signal the start of a fairly steady decline in the trade deficit, said White House spokesman Larry Speakes.

When the dollar was strong, manufacturers' products were at a price disadvantage relative to foreign-made goods.

Other recent financial data have been positive for the U.S. economy, including a sharp drop in consumer prices last month. Based on declines in interest rates, inflation and the dollar, officials see the economy expanding from last year's feeble growth.

The lower dollar should lead to further improvement later this year, said Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige.

The record U.S. trade deficit in 1985 — \$148.5 billion — spawned a drive in Congress to retaliate against U.S. trade partners. President Reagan so far has successfully resisted any shift to protectionism.

Exports rose last month to \$17.7 billion, their highest level in eight months, while oil imports fell 28 per cent, to \$3.8 billion.

The average price per barrel of oil dropped to \$24.85, its lowest level since 1979, when Middle Eastern producers cut production and sent U.S. petrol prices spiralling.

Mr. Baldrige predicted that the drop in spot oil prices to around \$12 per barrel will translate into substantially lower prices for imported oil in future months.

The February improvement in the trade deficit was partly a correction from steep shortfalls in December and January, said Robert Gough, senior vice president of the private forecasting firm Data Resources Inc.

The weaker dollar helped a little, but a greater stimulus to trade will come later in the year, Mr. Gough said.

World competition is stiff now. A decline in our currency is not going to yield an automatic rise in our market share," he said.

White House favours keeping Volcker for third term

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration wants Federal Reserve Board (Fed) Chairman Paul Volcker to stay in the job and would consider reappointing him to a third term next year, White House chief of staff, Mr. Donald Regan said.

In an interview published in the Washington Post Thursday, Mr. Regan, minimised monetary policy differences between the White House and Mr. Volcker and denied he has any personal "animus" against the powerful Fed chairman.

"Unless Mr. Volcker is unhappy or ill health, or gets an offer he can't refuse, I see no reason why he should step aside," Mr. Regan told the Post.

Mr. Volcker, whose grip over U.S. monetary policy was shaken recently when he was out-voted on a key issue — reducing the discount rate — by a majority of board members who were President Reagan appointees, is now in his second four-year term as Fed chairman, running until June 1987.

Last week, Fed vice chairman, Mr. Preston Martin resigned after the White House declined to give him an assurance that he would succeed Mr. Volcker as chairman.

Mr. Regan said the recent turmoil at the Fed was "blown out of proportion" and left open the possibility that Mr. Volcker would be offered another term.

"We'll have to talk to (Volcker) about what he wants to do, at the moment," Mr. Regan said. "I don't rule anything out. I would never commit to anything, particularly in the economic and monetary fields, 15 months in advance."

Mr. Regan, who was formerly Mr. Reagan's treasury secretary, also said it was unlikely that Mr. Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of the White House Council on Economic Advisors and a longtime Volcker critic, would be named to replace Mr. Martin.

Mr. Regan denied that the administration was trying to provoke Mr. Volcker into resigning by surrounding him with an uncooperative board, but stressed that President Reagan would nominate people whose economic philosophies were closest to his own.

Cyprus cuts petrol, gas prices

NICOSIA (R) — The government of Cyprus cut petrol and gas prices to consumers by an average 20 per cent Friday.

Premium grade petrol went down from 1.50 to 1.22 Cyprus pounds (\$2.85 to \$2.32) a gallon in the first such cut in 12 years. Bottled gas, diesel, jet fuel and paraffin prices were also cut.

The government had proposed allocating some \$84 million of extra revenue generated by plummeting crude oil prices and a decline in the value of the dollar to a special fund to help ease fiscal deficits and aid problem industries.

Parliament rejected that proposal, but Thursday night approved an alternative government plan to pass the benefits of the oil price slump to consumers.

Banker warns of Arab World credit crisis

VIENNA (Agencies) — The head of the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) said Thursday the Arab World faced a debt crisis and called on Arab bankers to persuade the international financial community "to resist the current running away from Arab risk."

Addressing members of the Union of Arab Banks (UAB) at a symposium entitled "Arab Banking in Face of Declining Oil Revenues," Mr. Abdullah A. Saudi, president and chief executive of the Bahrain-based ABC, said:

"I feel the major Arab banks face their largest challenge and simultaneously great opportunities in forestalling a looming Arab debt crisis over the next few years."

He estimated Arab World debt at mid-way between \$60 billion and \$130 billion, saying the lower figure represented a World Bank estimate of disbursed Arab debt of original maturity exceeding one year at the end of 1983.

The upper estimate of \$130 billion is an end-1984 figure from joint data by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Bank for International Settlements (BIS). He said it included most interbank and short-term trade-related liabilities of the Arab World.

Referring to the share of Arab banks' exposure in total Arab external debt, he added: "It is probably safe to say that Arab banks have a maximum medium-term hard currency exposure to Arab countries of around \$12.5 billion."

Mr. Saudi urged Arab banks to ensure that their countries and companies maintain as much non-Arab financing as possible rather than succumbing to pressure to step in and lend more to Arab countries themselves.

"There will undoubtedly be pressure in the current climate of lack of confidence in the Arab World for Arab banks to step in and lend more to Arab countries to allow debtors to pay back other creditors and to cover additional financing gaps that emerge," Mr. Saudi said.

"I do not believe that the major Arab international banks should accept this role without questioning, and without considerable consultation with the respective authorities," he added.

He said there was a limit to the amount of assets the big Arab banks could book. It would not be good banking to become too concentrated on Arab risk instead of diversifying.

"I believe that the major Arab banks can play a much more useful role in ensuring that Arab countries and companies maintain as much voluntary financing as possible by using their influence in the international financing community to resist the current running away from Arab risk."

If Citibank could cajole other banks into keeping short term credit lines in place for Brazil, surely the ABC and other Arab banks could do the same for certain Arab debt, he said.

Falling oil revenue would hit profitability, solvency

Earlier, Mr. Anwar Al Khalil head of the UAB said that declining revenue from oil sales would reduce the profitability and solvency of Arab banks, and called on Arab oil producers to place more of their earnings with them. He added that Arab economic policy had relied too much on income from oil sales.

The two-day symposium is organised by the UAB group of 175 banks and attended by banking representatives from 19 Arab countries.

Noting what he called the "hand-in-hand growth" of the Arab banking sector with the oil sector over the last 15 years, Mr. Khalil said: "With the diminished revenue the effect will be reflected in a decline in the banks' profitability and solvency."

Mr. Khalil argued for more cooperation between banks nationally, the formation of larger firms through mergers and the promotion of inter-Arab banking.

A large part of Arab international trade, amounting to \$100 billion each year, was handled by foreign (non-Arab) international banks, he said.

Kuwaiti Central Bank Governor Abdul Wahab Al Tamar told the meeting Arab bankers had to adjust to the drop in oil revenue by modernising management and expanding operations.

After his speech, Sheikh Tamar told Reuters: "Banks and regulatory authorities should develop a better system for investigation and inspection of bank liquidity and solvency, and develop practical measures for examining risks taken by banks."

Losses of oil revenue could be offset through bank economies, he said. "Everybody knows the oil revenue surplus is an old story of the past. But Arab banks existed before oil and will continue to exist. All they need is to adjust."

Sheikh Tamar also appealed for clear and more detailed disclosure in financial statements.

Collective Arab policies is a possible way out

Dr. Mohammad Mahmud Imam, vice president of the Arab Monetary Fund, told the seminar that a possible way out the situation created by falling oil revenues was to pursue "collective" Arab policies aimed at achieving long-term integrated development of the Arab region.

He warned that the reduction in oil revenues would have a progressively negative effect on Arab oil producing countries in particular and the region in general.

He called for a "rejuvenation" of Arab financial institutions, either through a replenishment of their resources or by creating opportunities for fresh revenue flows.

Dr. Imam gave a detailed breakdown of Arab aid to developing countries since 1971, including those in the Arab region. He said during the period 1971-82, Arab states received \$19.2 billion in development loans, representing about 20.7 per cent of total development assistance — or \$98.4 billion — extended by Arab states.

He said Arab states had also received \$4.35 billion in technical assistance, which amounted to more than 22 per cent of the total assistance extended by Arab countries to the Third World.

Dr. Imam said, taken together, Arab countries had received \$98.4 billion — 14.9 per cent of total assistance extended to developing countries between 1971 and 1982. If Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) aid was taken out of this figure, Arab countries could be said to have been given \$62.3 billion, or 9.5 per cent, of total assistance received by developing countries.

one official said.

If necessary, the IMF could supplement its general resources with funds from the general arrangements to borrow, or make more flexible use of its compensatory financing facility (CFF), designed to help developing countries weather a sudden fall in prices of their exports.

Mexico, Venezuela and Nigeria were the three major debtors likely to suffer most from an oil price collapse, the officials said. They added however that Mexico was probably the only one that might eventually need increased IMF help.

One Japanese official said he and some European colleagues were concerned about the possible impact of the Mexican debt crisis on the U.S. banking system, already weakened by loans to the depressed U.S. energy and agricultural industries.

"But if the U.S. isn't concerned, we're not in any position to argue," he said.

Japan has backed the Baker debt proposals, which call for multilateral organisations and commercial banks to extend nearly \$50 billion to the Third World's 15 biggest debtors over the next three years.

But Japanese officials discounted press reports that Tokyo was being pressured to provide a greater proportion of this money than it has extended to those debtors in the past.

While Japanese industry will benefit greatly from the collapse in oil and commodity prices, the government would have to increase corporate taxes if it wanted to siphon off profits from the domestic private sector to debtors abroad, they said.

Industrial nations review flexible debt framework

Meanwhile, major industrial nations have discussed the possibility of allowing oil-producing debtor nations to make greater use of International Monetary Fund (IMF) resources in the event of an oil price collapse. Japanese officials said in Tokyo.

They said that, while most governments believed the existing system for dealing with Third World debt was adequate to cope with a collapse, they recognised that it might have to be operated more flexibly.

They said the subject was discussed at meetings in London and Paris this month, but added it had yet to be considered by the IMF management.

Access to the fund's general resources by hard-hit debtor nations is currently limited to 110 per cent of their IMF quotas in any one year.

But the IMF's Interim Committee has indicated there could be some exceptions to this enlarged access policy, without laying down any firm rules or guidelines.

Reagan approves retaliatory measures against EC curbs

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has given tentative approval to a proposal recommending higher tariffs and imposition of quotas on some European Community (EC) exports to the United States, U.S. officials said Thursday.

The action, recommended by Reagan's cabinet, is in retaliation for new curbs on U.S. farm exports to Spain and Portugal.

The list of European products to be affected by the U.S. sanctions has not been disclosed.

U.S. trade officials said many details of the plan had not yet been worked out but that outlines of the action would be announced within the next few days.

The U.S. steps are to show displeasure at three new EC agricultural trade restrictions, including variable levies on corn and sorghum exports to Spain, quotas on vegetable oil consumption and oilseed imports by Portugal, and a provision reserving 15 per cent of Portugal's grain imports for EC suppliers.

U.S. secretary of state, Mr. George Shultz, speaking in Paris last week, underlined U.S. concern about the dispute by telling French President Francois Mitterrand: "We may have to fight it out."

A U.S. spokesman quoted Mr. Shultz as telling Mr. Mitterrand: "We have tariffs we can level as well, and no one wants to go down that road."

Singapore Airlines expands fleet

SINGAPORE (R) — Singapore Airlines ordered 14 long-range Boeing 747-400 aircraft Thursday and said it had taken an option to buy six more.

Airline Chairman J. Y. Pillay told a press conference the 20 aircraft and spares would cost \$3.3 billion, the largest dollar-value order for any single aircraft type in aviation history.

The first 14 aircraft will be delivered between early-1989 and mid-1993. The optional aircraft could arrive between 1992 and 1994.

The range of the 747-400 would be more than 13,000 kilometres. It would allow Singapore Airlines to operate non-stop services for most of the year to London and other European cities.

KLM raises \$300m for growth plans

AMSTERDAM (R) — The Netherlands national airline KLM said Thursday it had raised 775 million guilders (\$300 million) to finance expansion plans by issuing 15 million new shares.

KLM announced the issue last month to raise funds to renew its 60-plane fleet and add capacity to keep pace with a growing market. Orders have already been placed for 21 new planes.

The sale, which included three million shares held by the state, means that the Dutch government has lost its majority stake in the national carrier for the first time in 67 years.

A complex reshuffle of KLM's share structure has effectively cut the state's holding in the airline to 36.6 per cent from 54.8 per cent and generated 155 million guilders (\$60 million) for the state and 620 million (\$240 million) for the airline.

But the state will maintain a supervisory role and has the option to buy back a majority stake at a later stage. KLM said this was to safeguard it against takeovers and protect its role as the Dutch flag carrier in international route negotiations.

Indonesia says OPEC studying options for production cuts

JAKARTA (R) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members are studying Indonesian proposals for production cuts of either 12.1 or 14 per cent to prop up world oil prices, Energy Minister Subroto said Thursday.

He told reporters the nine-day OPEC ministerial conference, which broke off on Monday with no agreement among the 13 members on how to cut output, was in recess so that the ministers could consult their governments.

The ministers will reconvene in Geneva on April 15 to give their verdict on his proposals for production cuts, he said.

Dr. Subroto said Indonesia's first proposal was for a cut of 12.1 per cent by each country. The second would cut production by 14 per cent but he did not detail how the cuts would be shared among members of OPEC.

He said OPEC had agreed to aim for a gradual return to the previous price of \$28 a barrel by cutting production. But he did not say when he believed this could be achieved.

The meeting also agreed that OPEC's production ceiling for the second quarter of this year should be set at between 14 and 14.5 million barrels per day, he said.

Price drop seen negative in Latin America

Meanwhile, a senior U.N. economic official said Thursday in Santiago that the overall effect of the oil price fall on Latin America is negative and doubles the amount of fresh capital needed to restore per capita output to 1980 levels by 1990.

Mr. Norberto Gonzalez, executive secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Cepal), told a news conference the price drop would favour some oil importers in the region.

But he said Cepal's calculations, before the oil price drop, showed that to recover 1980 per capita output by 1990, the region would need \$20 billion in fresh capital. Assuming oil prices of \$17 a barrel, that amount rises to \$40 billion, he said.

He said falls in interest rates or price rises for Latin America's exports would cut that figure.

He did not say if the Cepal calculations took into account increased demand from developed countries thanks to the beneficial effects of lower energy costs on their economies.

Referring to the problems posed by Latin America's \$368 billion debt, Mr. Gonzalez said these would solve themselves if industrial economies grew by more than four per cent a year, but he said forecasts put likely growth no higher than three per cent.

As a result, he said, a political dialogue was needed between debtors and creditors, taking into account financial and political factors.

Poland boosts imports from West

On the other hand, Poland revealed Thursday that it took advantage of the recent slump in world oil prices to almost double its purchases on the open market this year.

Soviet oil, priced to Moscow's East Bloc trading partners on the basis of a five-year average of world prices, was more expensive in dollar terms than oil on the open market. Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Franciszek Kubiczek told reporters.

THE Daily Crossword by Harold B. Counts

ACROSS

- Cray
- Batters
- Be adjacent
- Came down
- Harague
- Amaz
- Escalad
- Ingredient?
- Lively dance
- Vegetation
- Measuring devices
- Benny film
- Perry of song
- Swiss
- Ballet start
- Jazz musician
- Topple
- Critic
- Frack
- Satisfy
- Challenged
- Build for
- Play for pay
- Personages
- Gallery
- Unleash
- Seed cover
- At least or a
- Movie dog
- Moosum ruler
- Wetton
- Saltily
- Malayan boat
- Essalad
- Ingredient?
- Unique thing
- Walk
- (Feel happy)
- Barman
- Doctor's order
- Lazy Susan
- Lower's quarrel

DOWN

- Garage
- Shelf
- Bank
- Chew
- Wearing
- Comedies
- Ready for war
- Queen
- Hold back
- To the point
- Essalad
- Ingredient?
- Applies
- Sesame seed
- Bull
- Was concerned
- de-force
- Frighten
- Unjaded
- "Aids" e.g.
- Essalad
- Ingredient?
- Epithets
- Shophouses
- Moosum's brother
- Shack type
- Max. state
- Bent
- Dejection
- Loopy's side
- Shower dress
- Gaze
- Arm
- River in it
- Le Deuce
- Hard of seats
- Audience

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. CRAY 2. BATTERS 3. BE ADJACENT 4. CAME DOWN 5. HARAGUE 6. AMAZ 7. ESCALAD 8. INGREDIENT? 9. LIVELY DANCE 10. VEGETATION 11. MEASURING DEVICES 12. BENNY FILM 13. PERRY OF SONG 14. SWISS 15. BALLET START 16. JAZZ MUSICIAN 17. TOPPLE 18. CRITIC 19. FRACK 20. SATISFY 21. CHALLENGED 22. BUILD FOR 23. PLAY FOR PAY 24. PERSONAGES 25. GALLERY 26. UNLEASH 27. SEED COVER 28. AT LEAST OR A 29. MOVIE DOG 30. MOOSUM RULER 31. WETTON 32. SALTILY 33. MALAYAN BOAT 34. ESSALAD 35. INGREDIENT? 36. UNIQUE THING 37. WALK 38. (FEEL HAPPY) 39. BARMAN 40. DOCTOR'S ORDER 41. LAZY SUSAN 42. LOWER'S QUARREL 43. GARAGE 44. SHELF 45. BANK 46. CHEW 47. WEARING 48. COMEDIES 49. READY FOR WAR 50. QUEEN 51. HOLD BACK 52. TO THE POINT 53. ESSALAD 54. INGREDIENT? 55. APPLIES 56. SESAME SEED 57. BULL 58. WAS CONCERNED 59. DE-FORCE 60. FRIGHTEN 61. UNJADED 62. "AIDS" E.G. 63. ESSALAD 64. INGREDIENT? 65. EPITHETS 66. SHOPHOUSES 67. MOOSUM'S BROTHER 68. SHACK TYPE 69. MAX. STATE 70. BENT 71. DEJECTION 72. LOOPY'S SIDE 73. SHOWER DRESS 74. GAZE 75. ARM 76. RIVER IN IT 77. LE DEUCE 78. HARD OF SEATS 79. AUDIENCE

Horoscope not received

Peanuts

THIS PROGRAM WAS BROUGHT TO YOU AS A PUBLIC SERVICE...

CONSULT YOUR PAPER FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF FUTURE PROGRAMS

AND NOW FOR A COMMUNITY REMINDER...

WAKE UP!

MUTT 'n' Jeff

MUTT, YOU CAN START COLLECTIONS ON THESE DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS!

RIGHT, CHIEF!

HERE'S ONE RIGHT ON MY STREET - LET'S SEE - NUMBER 217...

MUTT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HOME?

ANDY CAPP

HOW ABOUT THE RED ONE?

NO, THAT'S AWFUL

THAT PATTERNED ONE LOOKS NICE

ARE YOU KIDDING? IT LOOKS REALLY COMMON

THE PLAIN GREY ONE LOOKS SMART

THAT'S NO GOOD, IT'LL SHOW EVERY MARK

DON'T KNOW WHY YOU DRAG ME HERE, YOU DON'T NEED MY OPINION

OF COURSE I DO. THINGS LIKE CARPETS SHOULD BE CHOSEN TOGETHER

THE BETTER HALF By Harris

Harriet loved my clam sauce. I don't have the heart to tell her it was coffee.

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ROFAL

FLAUW

GANBIK

MEAFED

WHAT A MAN IS APT TO BECOME WHEN A PRETTY GIRL TELLS HIM HOW STRONG HE IS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: COMET TRYST BLITHE SYMBOL

Answer: What happened when a couple tried to kiss in a dense fog? - THEY "MIST"

Senate approves Contra aid plan Nicaragua calls Senate vote immoral

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate has approved President Reagan's request for \$100 million in aid for Nicaraguan rebels but by a margin far short of that sought by Republican leaders.

With Thursday night's 53 to 47 vote for Mr. Reagan in the Republican-controlled Senate, debate shifts back to the Democratic-led House, which last week rejected the plan by 12 votes. It takes the issue up again on April 15.

Mr. Reagan, who is spending Easter in Santa Barbara, California, said he was pleased by the Senate vote.

"The Senate's action is sure to send a profoundly reassuring signal to those fighting for freedom in Nicaragua and to Nicaragua's threatened neighbours," Mr. Reagan said.

In Managua, Nicaragua's left-wing government branded the vote immoral.

"Nothing good will come out of the North American Congress. We must prepare ourselves," said a broadcast on the government's Voz De Nicaragua radio.

"Why is a country discussing whether to give aid to forces to attack a sovereign country with a legitimately constituted government like Nicaragua? The radio asked.

Congress is expected in the end to back a plan that will revive military aid to the rebels after a two-year gap.

However, the Senate vote may spur opponents to dig in against

Mr. Reagan's support for the so-called Contra rebels, ensuring a bitter and protracted struggle in Congress, congressional analysts said.

Democratic Sen. James Sasser of Tennessee, a leading critic of Mr. Reagan's proposal, said the Senate vote "was so close you cannot call it a victory for the administration policy here in the body that his party controls."

Republican Richard Lugar of Indiana, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, acknowledged he would have liked to have a larger vote. "We worked hard to get that to occur," he said.

Mr. Reagan made the issue a major test of his second term and invested enormous personal and political capital in winning, lawmakers said.

After resisting compromise with the House, Mr. Reagan agreed to some changes in the Republican-sponsored Senate bill that won support from moderates in both parties.

But the changes imposed no major curbs on his use of the \$70 million in military aid and \$30 million in aid for non-lethal goods.

Sen. Sasser said the Senate action "takes us one more step further down the slippery slope to the commitment of U.S. forces in

Central America."

The package approved by the Senate would immediately give the rebels \$25 million.

In an effort to appease critics, it specifies that no funds be spent on offensive weapons until after July 1 so talks can be pursued on a political solution to the conflict.

After July 1, the Contras would get the rest of the money over 18 months.

Republicans picked up some support by requiring that the rebels try harder to unite and that aid go only to those committed to democracy and a peaceful solution. No aid would be allowed for rebels who commit human-rights violations or smuggle drugs.

During debate, the Senate defeated 67 to 33 Democratic move to deny military aid to Nicaraguan rebels while Mr. Reagan conducted mandatory peace talks with the Sandinistas.

Nicaragua said Thursday at least 390 troops and rebels have been killed in two weeks of raids on rebel bases which destroyed several camps and a rebel helicopter.

The Defence Ministry said 350 so-called Contra rebels were killed and a out 250 wounded in attacks since March 15 on training camps in what it called northern "border territories." It put government casualties at 40 dead and 116 wounded.

Diplomats said the statement, read on the official Voz De Nicaragua radio station, appeared to

confirm reports that Nicaraguan troops had launched a strike into neighbouring Honduras.

"Our troops destroyed various important enemy camps, including the main training centre, as well as means of transport including a helicopter," the statement said.

Earlier statements by the leftist Sandinista government had denied that its troops had crossed into Honduran territory.

Diplomats said the communiqué amounted to confirmation of U.S. reports of a Nicaraguan incursion into Honduras because most of the rebel camps were beyond artillery range of the border.

Nicaragua has long accused Honduras, a staunch U.S. ally, of sheltering the rebels.

The statement said five Nicaraguan soldiers were missing, two of whom it said were being held by Honduran military authorities. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry was asking for their swift repatriation, it said.

Honduras Wednesday presented two Nicaraguan soldiers to reporters and said one of its helicopters had been hit by Nicaraguan gunfire.

Since Wednesday U.S. helicopters have air-lifted Honduran troops into the remote mountainous area of El Paraiso in eastern Honduras, near where the United States had said 1,500 Sandinista troops were locked in combat with rebel forces.

Muslim rebels want talks with Aquino

MANILA (R) — Muslim guerrillas believe in the sincerity of President Corason Aquino and would like to negotiate a peaceful solution to their rebellion in the southern Philippines, a rebel leader said Friday.

"The forces in the field want to participate in the negotiation," Macapangan Abbas, chairman for political and foreign affairs of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), told Reuters.

MNLF rebels held a three-day meeting in Lanao Del Sur province this week after the government offered a six-month truce to discuss how to grant them autonomy on Mindanao Island.

The MNLF, now split by factional disputes, has been fighting for greater autonomy or even full independence for the region. At least 40,000 people have been killed in the past 10 years.

Asked how the rebels compared the proposed President Ferdinand Marcos with Mr. Aquino, Mr. Abbas said: "Marcos was our enemy. We believe in the sincerity of Mrs. Aquino."

But Mr. Abbas, whom the Aquino government contacted in Malaysia three weeks ago, said they would have to wait for other rebel leaders to arrive from the Middle East before talks could start.

He said former Sen. Mamintan Tamano had gone to the Middle East to contact Nur Misuari, leader of a hardline MNLF faction, and Hassan Salamata, head of a fundamentalist wing.

Mr. Misuari was in Libya or Saudi Arabia while Mr. Salamata was in Qatar, he said.

Mr. Abbas said he and other leaders were willing to negotiate even if Mr. Misuari and Mr. Salamata refused to join them. "If the government will negotiate with us I don't think it would matter because the ground forces want to negotiate," he said.

The MNLF claims the Marcos government violated an agreement signed in Tripoli in 1976 granting autonomy to 12 Mindanao provinces.

Marcos fled to Hawaii last month with his family and associates after a civilian-backed revolt toppled his 20-year regime.

A total of 343 people have been killed in rebel-related incidents since Mrs. Aquino took power five weeks ago, the military said Friday.

It said there had been 229 incidents in at least 20 of the country's 74 provinces, most of them initiated by the Communist New People's Army (NPA).

Troops had been put on alert in case of trouble during Easter and the 17th anniversary Saturday of the launching of the NPA.

About 5,000 people were killed in clashes last year.

Death toll in Bangui jet crash reaches 30

BANGUI (R) — Thirty people, most of them children, are now known to have died after a French Air Force Jaguar crashed on a school in the capital of the Central African Republic Thursday, hospital sources said Friday.

Forty people were hurt and eight critically injured people have been flown to Paris.

The aircraft, part of the French strike force stationed here and involved in fighting in neighbouring Chad, crashed on an Islamic school in a Bangui suburb.

The accident, apparently caused by mechanical trouble, unleashed anti-French riots. President Andre Kolingba appealed on the radio for an end to racial violence, saying France's military presence contributed to political stability in the region.

Calm returned after a few hours but many French nationals sought refuge at the French embassy after European-driven vehicles were stoned.

France has about 1,500 troops in the Central African Republic, including 500 in Bangui. Their presence has caused resentment and there have been several incidents between French soldiers and local people.

Many of the dead and some 30 wounded were schoolchildren, police sources said. The pilot ejected but was reported seriously wounded.

Kilometre 5 is a suburb only a few hundred metres from Bangui airport where several French combat aircraft involved in the war in Chad are based.

Bangui Radio Thursday interrupted normal programmes after the crash, issuing calls for calm interspersed with religious music. It also asked blood donors to report to hospitals.

French Charge d'Affaires Jean-Pierre Vidon told a French radio station later that calm had returned to the capital after President Andre Kolingba urged his countrymen not to react in a manner showing racial hatred.

French President Francois Mitterrand sent condolences to Mr. Kolingba over the crash.

"Please accept my deepest regrets and the condolences of the French nation in these difficult moments. I would be grateful if you could express my own feelings of sadness to the families involved," a message issued by Mr. Mitterrand's office in Paris said.

S. Korea changes policy over opposition campaign

SEOUL (R) — The South Korean government has changed its stand on a previously-banned opposition campaign to gather signatures demanding electoral reform and now regards it as legal, a government official said Friday.

"Even students and ordinary citizens can sign now if they refrain from illegal protest and violence," the official, who did not wish to be identified, told Reuters.

President Chun Doo Hwan's government has cracked down on the campaign, sponsored by leading dissidents Kim Dae-Jung and Kim Young-Sam and launched last month by the opposition New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP).

The opposition aimed to collect 10 million signatures on a petition demanding the replacement of the present indirect electoral college

system with direct presidential voting before Mr. Chun steps down in 1988.

Hundreds of militant students have been arrested this year after staging anti-government demonstrations and more than 100 politicians and dissidents have been questioned by state prosecutors in connection with the campaign.

Mr. Chun, described as a military dictator by the opposition, told NKDP Party Chief Yi Min-U last month he would order the police not to over-react.

The official said: "The government has not viewed the signature campaign as illegal since the Feb. 24 talks between opposition leaders and President Chun, in which he promised not to over-react to the campaign."

Czech congress ends after reelecting party leaders

PRAGUE (R) — A five-day congress of the Czechoslovak Communist Party ended here Friday after re-electing the same leadership that has ruled for 15 years.

The 11-man party presidium, or politburo, which has placed stability and security ahead of innovation, was voted in unchanged in a closed session Thursday night.

The only shift in the top ranks was the appointment of three new candidate politburo members, including Frantisek Pitra, who has

presided over the relatively successful agricultural sector.

There appeared to have been no opposition to the re-election of party General-Secretary Gustav Husak, 73, who came to power after the 1968 Soviet invasion.

Others re-elected were Prime Minister Lubomir Strougal, who made a strongly-worded plea for radical economic improvements in his congress speech, and veteran Vasil Bilak.

Sabah peace pact may be signed today

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Sabah's feuding Muslim and Christian politicians are likely to sign an agreement Saturday to end two weeks of strife in the East Malaysian state. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad said Friday.

The pact would involve a coalition, after fresh state elections, between the largely Christian Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) of Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan and the mainly Malay Muslim opposition.

Five people have been killed, about 20 wounded and more than 1,500 arrested in rioting, bombings and arson in Sabah since March 12 by militant Muslims protesting against Mr. Pairin's alleged anti-Islamic stance, which he has denied.

The pact, which would allow Mr. Pairin to remain as chief minister, was suggested by Mr. Mahathir when he visited the state capital, Kota Kinabalu, on Monday.

The National News Agency

Bernama quoted Mr. Mahathir as saying the opposition United Sabah National Organisation (USNO) led by former Chief Minister Tun Mustapha Harun and the federal-backed multi-racial Berjaya Party would agree to the pact.

Mr. Pairin dissolved the state assembly last month, just 10 months after he came to power, following a spate of defections by his assemblymen to the opposition. A date for fresh polls has not yet been set.

Doe offers to meet opposition leaders

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Liberia's President, Maj.-Gen. Samuel Doe, has invited leaders of the three legal opposition parties to meet with him to seek "national reconciliation" while tensions remain high after student riots and the banning of an opposition rally last week.

Presidential Press Secretary Patrick E. Kugmeh said Thursday night the invitation was aimed at

"national reconciliation" following elections last Oct. 15 that opposition parties say Doe's ruling National Democratic Party rigged, and after an abortive coup attempt last Nov. 12.

It was not immediately known if Gabriel Kpelleh of the Liberia Unification Party, Edward Kesseley of the Unity Party and Jackson Doe of the Liberia Action Party would accept the invitation.

Jackson Doe is not related to the president.

Kugmeh said President Doe invited the opposition leaders to accompany him, to a spot about 190 kilometres from Monrovia the capital of this impoverished West African nation, for the proposed meeting. Doe's proposal for a meeting was first announced by Liberia's state radio service on Wednesday night.

Nearly 200 settlers were killed and about 1,000 wounded in July, 1984, when guerrillas attacked the first wave of immigrants under the government plan. Many houses were razed.

Tribal sources said nearly 15,000 troops were now operating in the area.

Augustine volcano erupts in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Clouds of corrosive ash drifted Friday from the erupting peak of Augustine volcano, prompting authorities to declare a health alert and advise some residents to stay home. The 1,230-metre volcano, quiet since 1976, erupted early Thursday on its uninhabited island 280 kilometres south west of Anchorage.

COLUMN

Sirhan denied parole again

SOLEDA, California (R) — Sirhan Sirhan, the convicted assassin of U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy, was denied parole for the eighth time in 11 years and the second time in nine months.

Sirhan, an Arab immigrant convicted of shooting Kennedy dead while he campaigned for the presidency in 1968, was granted the hearing before the California Board of Prison Terms after his attorney campaigned that the board took only three minutes to reject his previous parole bid last June. A spokeswoman said Sirhan, 42, left the room quietly after the ruling was announced. The board said it would hold another hearing within a year. The board recommended that he be transferred from Soledad Prison, south of San Francisco, to a prison hospital near Sacramento for psychiatric therapy.

Women faith healers nailed to the cross

MALOLOS, Philippines (R) — Two women faith healers were nailed to the cross Friday in a re-enactment of the crucifixion during Easter ceremonies in the Philippines. In an annual ritual of Easter penance which attracts thousands of sightseers, Luz Reyes and Engracia Jumaquio were crucified on the edge of a rice field in Malolos, 50 kilometres north of Manila. The two women were tied to wooden crosses and, men dressed as Roman centurions flogged them with leather whips before hammering six-inch nails through their palms and feet.

Reyes, 27, a meat vendor at Paco-bong market, said it was her 10th crucifixion. Jumaquio, 19, said it was her fourth. Both said they had faith healing powers and bystanders who knew them supported their claims. Church authorities are embarrassed by the Easter ritual but cannot stop crucifixions or acts of flagellation by hundreds of people who lash themselves with bamboo canes to draw blood.

U.S. pays Marcos' shopping bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — A \$39,000 shopping bill run up at American military bases by Ferdinand Marcos and his entourage has been paid on an "interim" basis with U.S. taxpayer dollars. The decision to pay for the purchases of the former Philippine president and his entourage with federal funds was made earlier this month by Adm. Ronald Hays, the commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Command. Military spokesman Capt. Al Becker said that Adm. Hays authorized the issuance of a U.S. treasury check drawn on the Pacific Command's Operational and Maintenance Fund, because he did not think the military-store system should be forced "to bear the burden of carrying these bills on its books."

Adm. Hays fully expects his military account to be repaid, Capt. Becker said in a telephone call from Hawaii, where he is based. But he added that the matter of reimbursement had yet to be resolved. "It's important to underscore that this is only an interim thing until we find out ultimately how we're going to take care of all the billings," Capt. Becker said.

Promising steps reported against common cold

WASHINGTON (AP) — Laboratory tests using a special antibody have shown some success in blocking a virus that causes the common cold, but researchers are cautioning that the work is only an important first step. In tests involving 26 volunteers, the researchers said Thursday that volunteers using antibody nose drops delayed the onset of colds by two days and had less severe illnesses than those using a dummy preparation. But Dr. Richard J. Colanin of Merck Sharp and Dohme Research Laboratories in West Point, Pennsylvania, conceded, "clinically, we know very little about the common cold infection process." In a presentation at the annual meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, Dr. Colanin said commercial application of the treatment would still be years in the future. The so-called monoclonal antibody, produced by special cell cultures, attaches to one cell surface protein to keep cold-causing rhinoviruses from blocking on and infecting the cell. The antibody ties up or blocks off this protein, called a receptor, so that rhinoviruses cannot attach and move into cells in the nasal cavity, Dr. Colanin said.

Opposition rally urges Zia to resign

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan's main opposition groups converged on Karachi Friday to hold a huge show of strength and demand that President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq resign.

Several parties ignored bans on unauthorised marches to file through Pakistan's largest city shouting "down with Zia" and "Zia should resign," witnesses said.

Hundreds of armed riot police watched as tens of thousands of people converged on a large park

for the first opposition rally in Karachi since Gen. Zia lifted martial law last December.

Gen. Zia, who seized power in 1977, has stayed on as chief of army staff after lifting martial law. His critics say there can be no real democracy until he leaves the army.

They reject as unrepresentative the national and provincial assemblies elected in controlled polls in February 1985.

The opposition Movement for

the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) has been organising rallies around Pakistan to prepare for the return from self-exile of Benazir Bhutto, head of the large Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the most charismatic figure among the anti-Zia politicians.

Ms. Bhutto is due to return to Pakistan in the first half of April. In a clear sign of the rights within the 11-party MRD, the centrist party Tehrik-I-Istiqal refused to join the rally.

Yugoslav newspaper carries document on Waldheim

BELGRADE (R) — A leading Yugoslav newspaper published Friday what it called a facsimile extract from a United Nations War Crimes Commission document listing former U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim as a war crimes suspect.

The extract was published in Vecernje Novosti, which earlier this week published what it said was a Yugoslav War Crimes Commission document of 1957 listing Dr. Waldheim as wanted in connection with Nazi atrocities in Yugoslavia.

The document published Friday referred to Dr. Waldheim as suspect number 724 on a list of 791 suspected war criminals in connection with the "murder and putting to death of hostages" from April 1944 to May 1945.

The document was stamped as "seventy-ninth list of war criminals, suspects and material witnesses," including Germans, Italians, Bulgarians and Hungarians.

Dr. Waldheim, Austria's foreign minister before his term as U.N. chief from 1972 to 1982, is running for the Austrian presidency and has denied war crime allegations made against him.

Copies of documents alleged to list Dr. Waldheim as wanted by Yugoslavia failed to arrive from Belgrade Thursday night in Vienna, where Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal was waiting to examine them.

Wiesenthal said he had been expecting a Yugoslav journalist to bring them but the journalist failed to turn up with the certified copies after saying he would take them Thursday night by plane.

Wiesenthal says Yugoslavia holds the answer to whether Dr. Waldheim was a war criminal or not.

On Thursday, Vecernje Novosti published extracts from a telephone interview with Dr. Waldheim in which he admitted serving in an area of Yugoslavia where atrocities were committed in 1942 but denied any operational involvement.

Wreckage was sprayed 200 metres and windows as high as five storeys were shattered.

Police found a stick of gelignite and a detonator nearby.

Witnesses likened the scene in the Melbourne streets to that of war-torn Beirut.

"She was running across the road on fire. She was really badly burnt, her skin was burning, there were flames coming off her skin," said one bystander of the badly burned policewoman.

"There was an almighty explosion and an earthquake impact. Glass rained down everywhere," solicitor Tony Parsons told reporters.

Robert Toms said he heard an enormous bang. "At first I was just dazed. All I could see was this wall of flame."

Prime Minister Bob Hawke joined the condemnation of the bombing. "I hope that those responsible will be detained very quickly and I extend my sympathy to those that have been involved," Mr. Hawke told reporters in Sydney.

Melbourne car bomb injures 22

MELBOURNE (R) — Police said Friday they believed a car bomb blast which rocked Melbourne's city centre Thursday and injured 22 people was the work of a psychopath.

They said they discounted earlier speculation that the attack outside Victorian State Police Headquarters was carried out by a guerrilla group.

A senior officer said they had been unable to find any link between the bombing and any known organisation in Australia.

The state government has offered a 100,000 dollar (\$70,000) reward, the largest in its history, for information leading to the conviction of the bomber or bombers.

A 21-year-old policewoman, Angela Taylor, was still critically ill in hospital with burns to 60 per cent of her body after taking the full force of the blast. Nine of her colleagues were among the injured.

Police said the target was their headquarters in Russell Street but that no one had yet claimed responsibility.

"There was no forewarning that a bomb might be detonated and even self-respecting terrorist groups overseas usually provide that concession," State Police Commissioner Mick Miller told a press conference.

The car bomb exploded at 1pm (0300 GMT) amid crowds in the street outside the police building and opposite the city's Magistrates Court.

Wreckage was sprayed 200 metres and windows as high as five storeys were shattered.

Police found a stick of gelignite and a detonator nearby.

Witnesses likened the scene in the Melbourne streets to that of war-torn Beirut.

"She was running across the road on fire. She was really badly burnt, her skin was burning, there were flames coming off her skin," said one bystander of the badly burned policewoman.

"There was an almighty explosion and an earthquake impact. Glass rained down everywhere," solicitor Tony Parsons told reporters.

Robert Toms said he heard an enormous bang. "At first I was just dazed. All I could see was this wall of flame."

Prime Minister Bob Hawke joined the condemnation of the bombing. "I hope that those responsible will be detained very quickly and I extend my sympathy to those that have been involved," Mr. Hawke told reporters in Sydney.

Osaka police HQ hit by homemade rockets

OSAKA, Japan (R) — Homemade rockets hit Osaka police headquarters Friday in what police suspected was the second attack this week by leftist guerrillas.

Witnesses said three missiles burst from the boot of a parked car and hurtled towards the headquarters in the central Japan city. Two landed on the roof and one in the courtyard.

Police said there were no casualties or damage.

The attack was similar to a twin-assault mounted in Tokyo on Tuesday when homemade rocket bombs were fired at the United States embassy and the palace of Emperor Hirohito.

The missiles also sprang out of parked cars in that attack and caused no casualties.

Police suspected leftwing radicals who have sworn to disrupt the summit of seven industrial nations due to be held in Tokyo at the beginning of May.

Radicals have also threatened action against celebrations on April 29 of Hirohito's 60 years on the throne.

A witness to the Osaka attack told reporters: "There was a loud bang. People

dasbed out into the street and saw the lid of the boot flung up and smoke pouring out."

Police said the missiles were metal canisters 60 centimetres long and four centimetres thick. They travelled about 150 metres.

Prime suspects in the Tokyo bombings were members of the ultra-leftist Chukaku-Ha which has publicly vowed to "blow to pieces" the summit and the royal celebrations.

Chukaku-Ha is the biggest of several radical groups which split off from the Japan Communist Party in recent years because of violence with the party's non-violent policies.

The group demonstrated its planning skills last November with a highly-organised strike on rail communications across Japan. This tied up a large part of the rail network for most of the day.

A smaller leftwing splinter group called Senki — battle flag — was also under suspicion.

Senki, too, has threatened action against the summit and has used rocket bombs in the past. Police raided its offices near Tokyo Thursday.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SEARIF
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NO GUESS — DON'T FINESSE!

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

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♦ A K 2

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WEST

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